



# Ao Haru Ride

The scent of air after rain...  
In the light around us, I felt your heartbeat.

IO SAKISAKA

1

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---

I O S A K I S A K A

1

1

C O N T E N T S

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A black and white illustration of a young man and a young woman standing side-by-side. The man on the left has short, light-colored hair and is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark trousers. The woman on the right has shoulder-length hair with bangs and is wearing a sailor-style top with a dark collar and a dark skirt. They are both looking directly at the viewer with neutral expressions. In the foreground, a large, dark, leafy branch or wreath-like structure curves across the bottom of the frame, partially obscuring the lower legs of the characters. The background is plain white.

# Ao Haru Ride

The scent of air after rain...  
In the light around us, I felt your heartbeat.

**Unwritten**

IO SAKISAKA



# GREETINGS

Hi! I'm Io Sakisaka. Thank you for picking up a copy of *Ao Haru Ride* volume 1. I imagine there are many of you who are reading this for the first time—nice to meet you!

I find myself strangely nervous about this new serialization, but it is what it is regardless of how nervous I'm feeling. I'm going to focus on the parts that excite me—at least that's what I've been desperately telling myself.

Even I don't know everything there is to know about the characters yet. What I do know is that I want to see them grow and make choices as they move through the many experiences I draw. I'd like to take the same perspective as a reader would and slowly reveal the characters as I go. I hope you'll come along for the ride!

Enjoy *Ao Haru Ride*, and please read through to the end!

Io Sakisaka



I FIND BOYS  
DIFFICULT  
TO DEAL  
WITH.

I  
DISLIKE  
THEM.

EVEN  
MORE SO  
NOW IN  
JUNIOR  
HIGH.

BUT...

...AND  
BAR-  
BARIC.

...THERE  
IS ONE  
BOY...

OW! GYA HA HA

THEY'RE  
VIOLENT...

...AND  
LOUD...



...AND HIS  
VOICE  
ISN'T LOW.  
HE'S LIKE  
A GIRL.

TANAKA  
IS  
SHORT...



HE'S  
GENTLE.

MAYBE  
THAT'S  
WHY...

TANAKA  
FROM THE  
CLASS NEXT  
DOOR...

HE'S  
DIFFERENT  
SOMEHOW.





HEY.

ROCK-  
PAPER-  
SCISSORS!

...I DON'T  
MIND  
BEING  
AROUND  
HIM.



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

NAITO!



Right?

Just like  
elementary  
kids.

TANAKA  
IS WITH  
THEM.



WE'RE  
GOING TO  
PLAY COPS  
AND  
ROBBERS.

We're  
picking  
teams.

COPS AND  
ROBBERS?!

OH...



WHAT?  
REALLY?

I WANT  
TO PLAY!



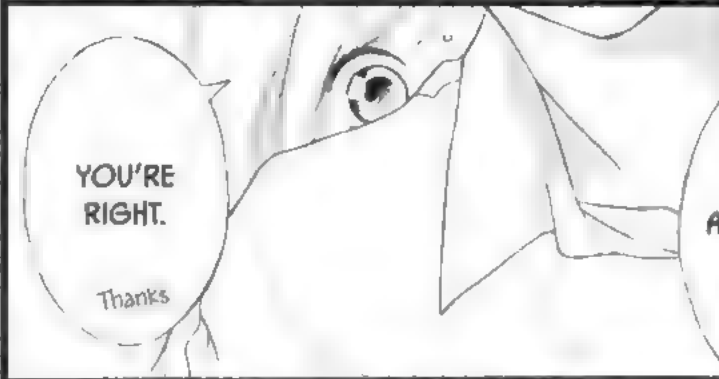




ROCK...  
PAPER...  
SCISSORS!







YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

Thanks



THERE  
ARE COPS  
OVER  
THERE.

NOT  
NOW.



TANAKA  
IS...



SURE.



Wow

...STRONGER  
THAN I  
THOUGHT.



UH...

...OH.



...AND THE  
TIPS OF HIS  
HAIR ARE  
CURLY AND  
CUTE.



HIS  
ARMS  
ARE  
SLEN-  
DER...





OH NO! WHAT IF TANAKA  
IS TELEPATHIC AND HE  
JUST READ MY MIND?  
SORRY, I WON'T THINK ANY  
MORE WEIRD THOUGHTS.

A-B-C-D...

FUTABA'S THOUGHTS JUST IN  
CASE HE REALLY IS TELEPATHIC



I'LL GO  
CHECK.

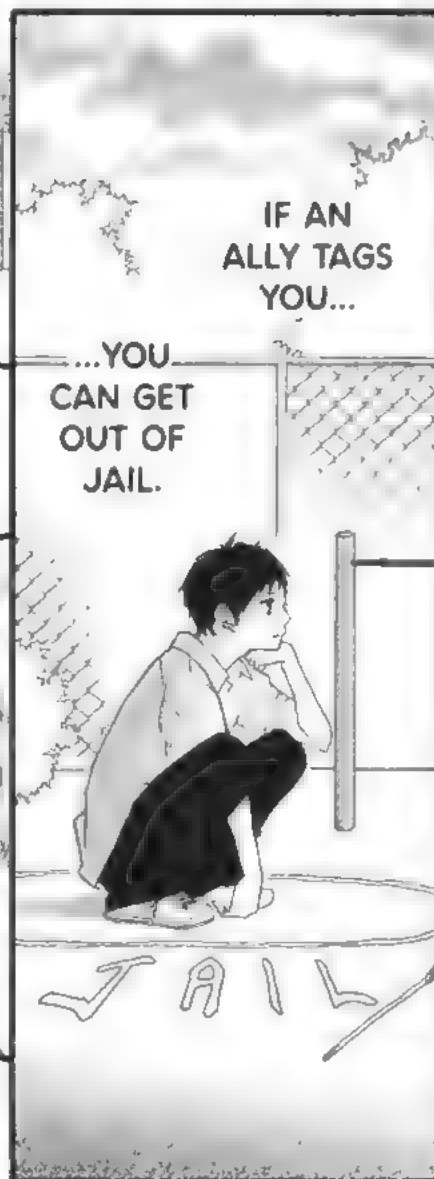
HEY, YOU  
THINK  
SOMEONE  
IS OVER  
THERE?

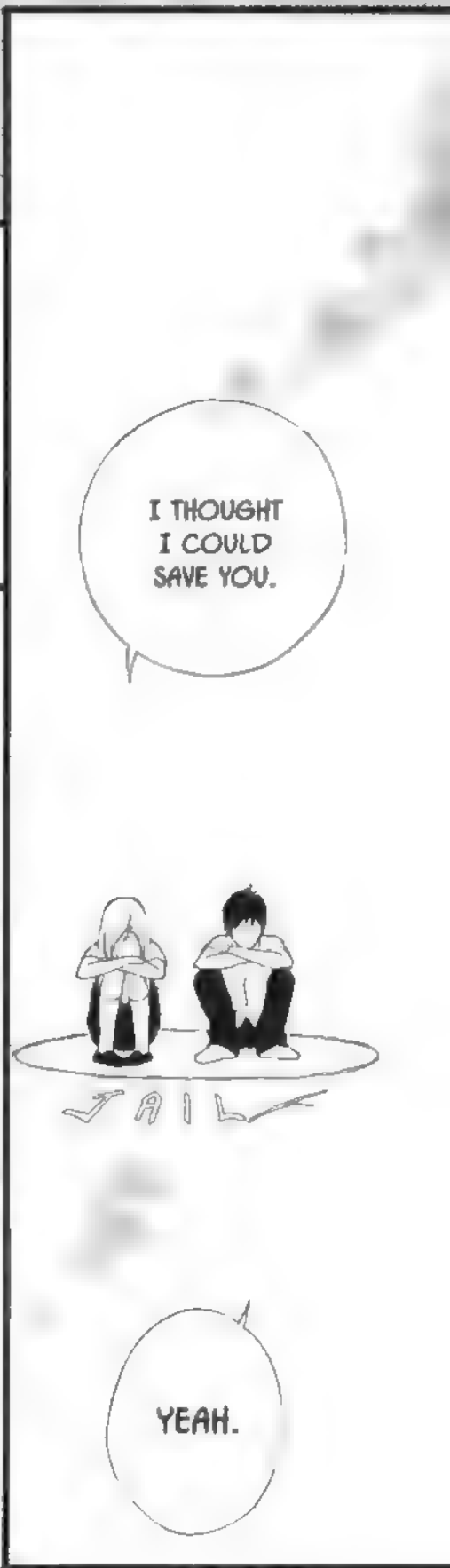


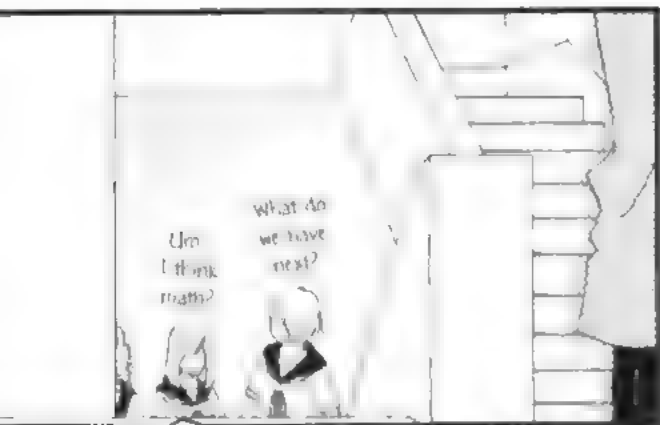
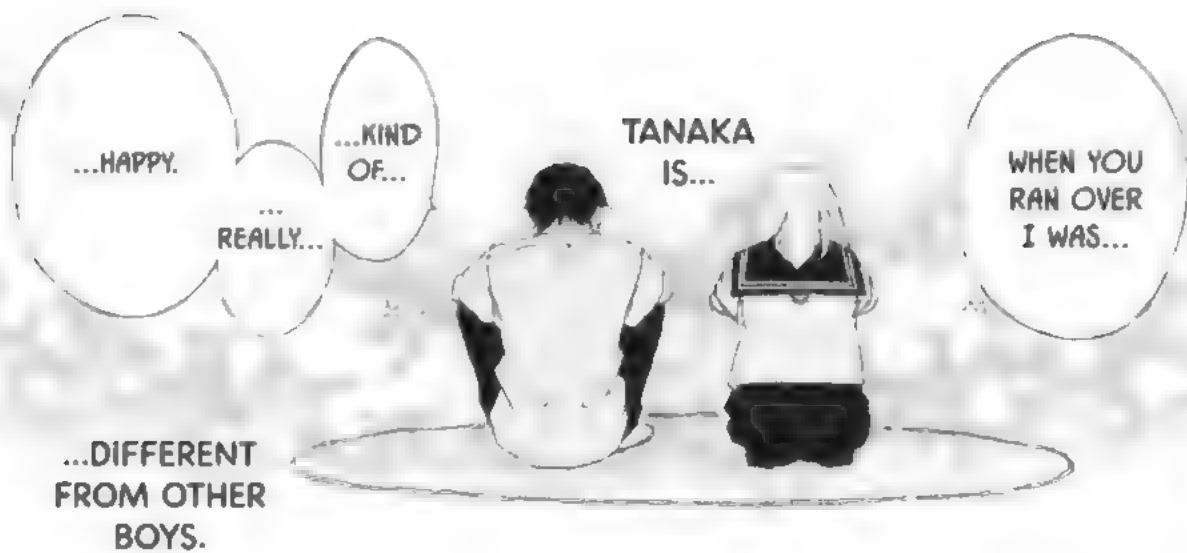
YOSHIOKA,  
YOU STAY  
HERE.

I  
KNEW  
IT!

Get  
him!











...LOOK  
AWAY.



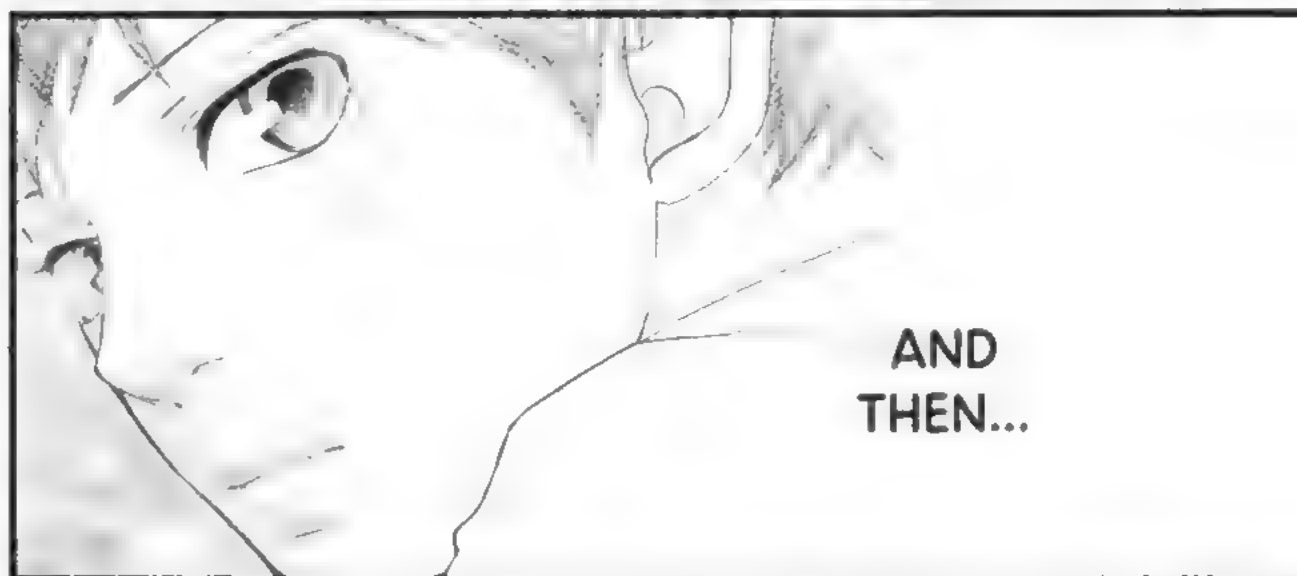
AT  
FIRST.



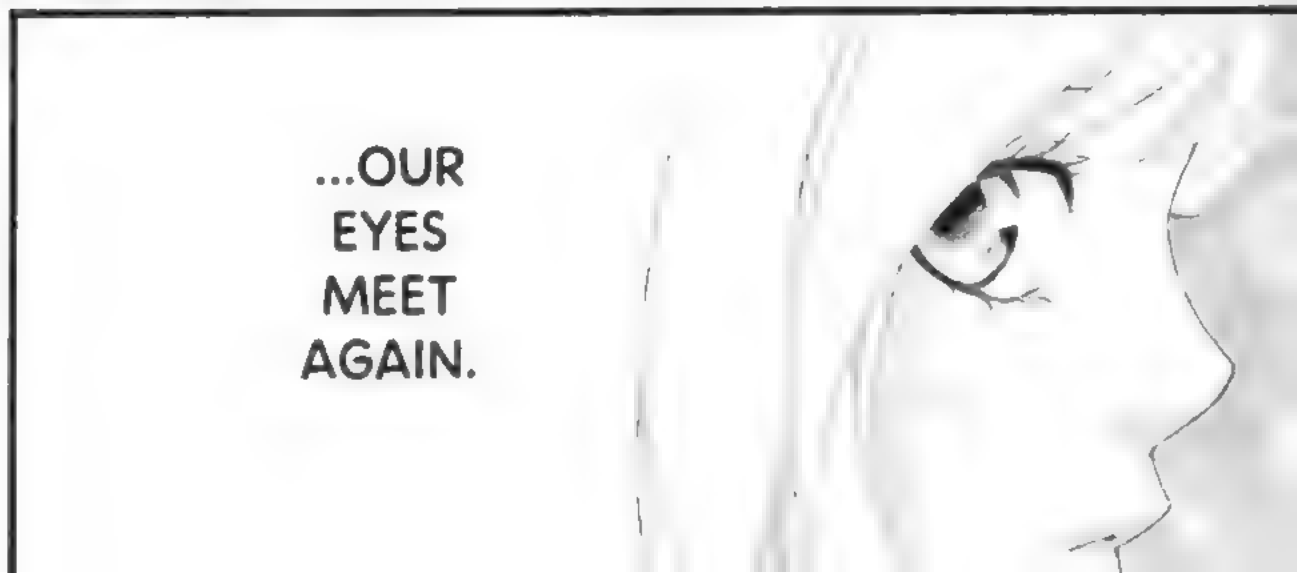
...WE  
ALWAYS...



WHEN  
OUR  
EYES  
MEET...

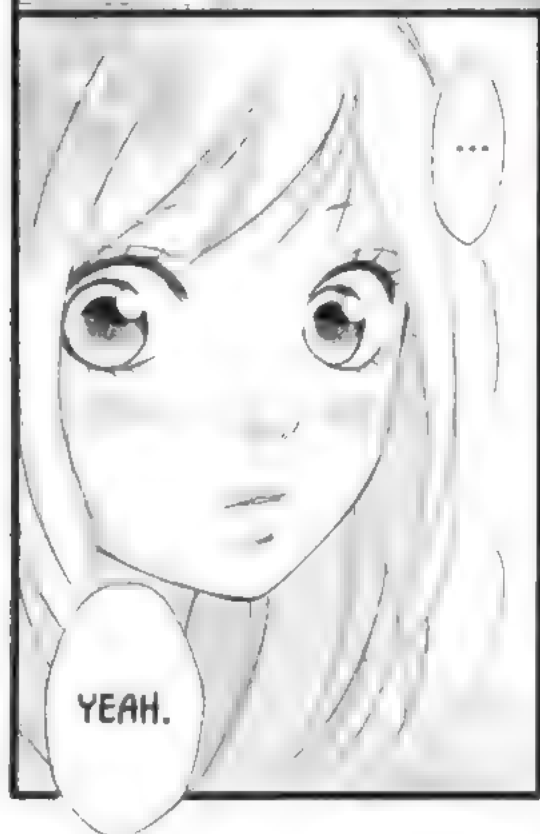
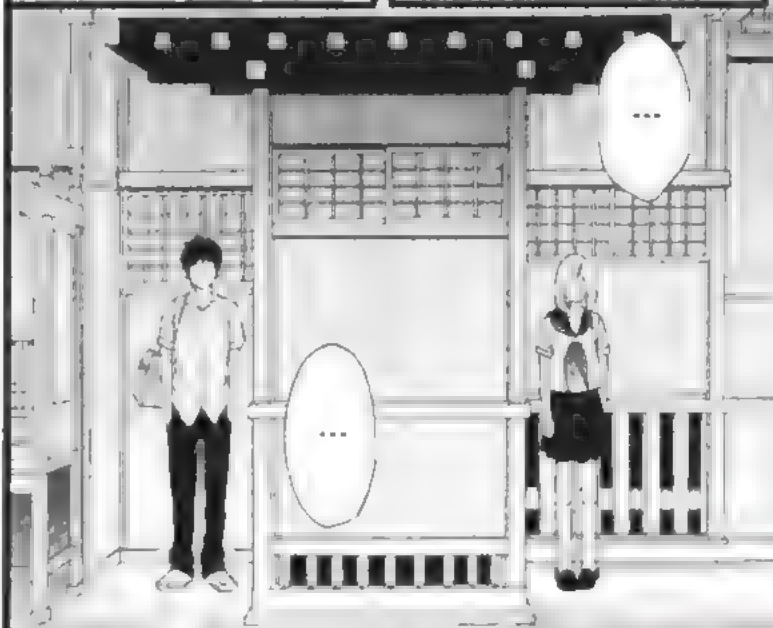


AND  
THEN...



...OUR  
EYES  
MEET  
AGAIN.





...I STILL  
FEEL  
NERVOUS.

I DON'T  
DISLIKE  
TANAKA,  
BUT...

AHH... WHY  
CAN'T I SAY  
SOMETHING  
MORE THAN  
"YEAH"?

BLUSH

I...

I  
WONDER  
WHY.



IT'S  
ALMOST  
AS IF...

TANAKA,  
ARE YOU  
GOING  
TO THE  
FESTIVAL?!

Summer Festival  
Sakusaka Shrine  
Date & Time

OH.

WHAT?  
ME?!  
IT CAN'T  
BE!

I NEED  
TO SAY  
SOME-  
THING. THIS  
IS SO  
EMBAR-  
RASSING!





I'LL BE SO  
EMBAR-  
RASSED IF  
IT DID!

DID IT SOUND  
LIKE I WAS  
ASKING HIM  
OUT?!



HUH...?



I'LL HAVE  
TO ASK  
HER.

I WONDER  
IF YUMI  
WANTS TO  
GO.



HERE,  
USE THIS.



WHAT?



SO  
EMBAR-  
RASSING.

I WONDER  
WHAT  
TANAKA IS  
THINKING...

I'M  
TERRIBLE  
AT THIS.

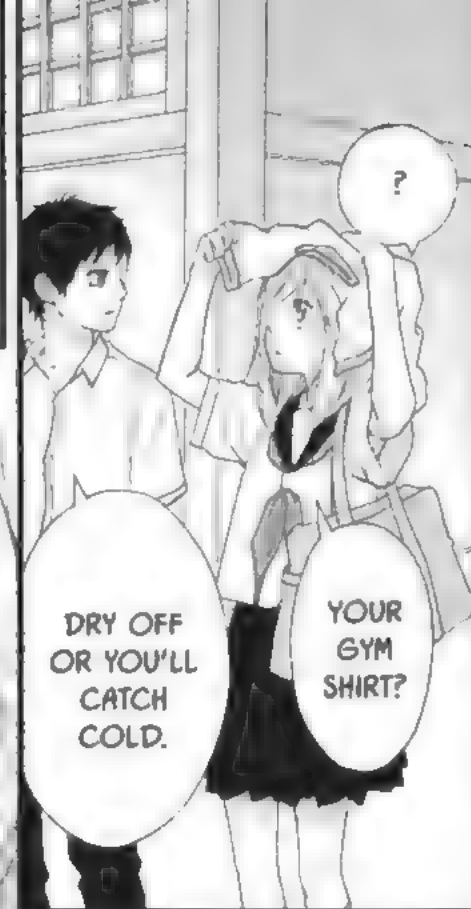


DON'T WORRY.  
I HAVEN'T  
WORN THAT  
ONE.



EXCEPT  
ONCE.

EEEEEW  
You  
wore  
this?!



DRY OFF  
OR YOU'LL  
CATCH  
COLD.

YOUR  
GYM  
SHIRT?

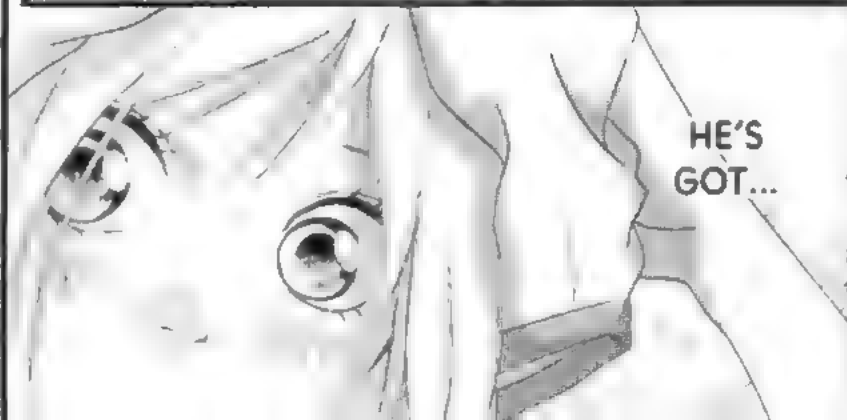


...A  
RATHER...

...MISCHIEVOUS  
LAUGH.



HA  
HA



HE'S  
GOT...

I DON'T  
CARE. I'M  
USING IT.

Heh

...WHAT  
KIND OF  
EXPRESSION  
HE HAS.

THANKS.

I  
WONDER...

YEAH.

USE  
IT.

...TANAKA...?

DOES...

1-3

HERE.

MAYBE.

I COULD  
BE  
WRONG.







THE  
CLOCK  
TOWER...

...IN  
SANKAKU  
PARK.

MAYBE.

OR  
MAYBE  
NOT.

UM...

...ASKING  
ME TO GO  
TO THE  
FESTIVAL  
WITH  
HIM?

WAIT,  
WHAT?

IS  
HE...



OH  
YEAH?  
HUH...

I LENT HER  
SOMETHING.  
SHE JUST  
BROUGHT IT  
BACK.



WHOA!

WHAT ARE YOU  
TWO DOING  
OUT HERE  
TOGETHER?

UGH...  
I REALLY  
DON'T  
LIKE  
BOYS.

TELL  
ME!

...BE-  
TWEEN  
YOU  
TWO?

SO  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
GOING  
ON...

THE ONLY  
ONE I CAN  
STAND IS  
TANAKA.

TELL  
ME!  
TELL  
ME!

ONLY  
TANAKA.

CUT IT OUT.  
YOU'RE SO  
ANNOYING!

THIS IS WHY  
I CAN'T  
STAND IT.

I  
DISLIKE  
THE  
REST.

WHAT'S  
HAPPEN-  
ING?

HEY!

DID  
WE...

...JUST  
MAKE A  
DATE?

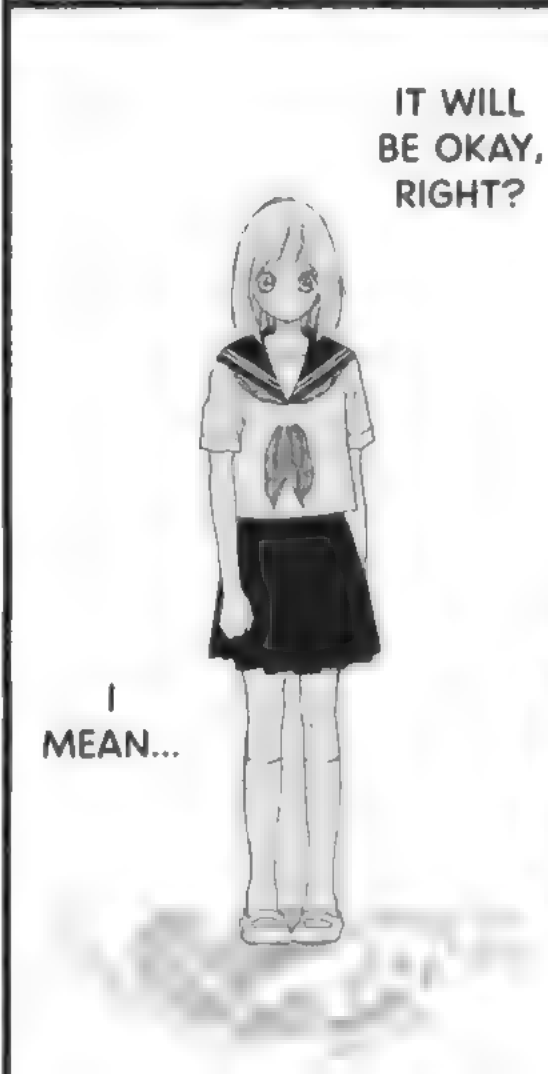


I HATE  
BOYS!

YOU'RE  
ALL SO  
STUPID!

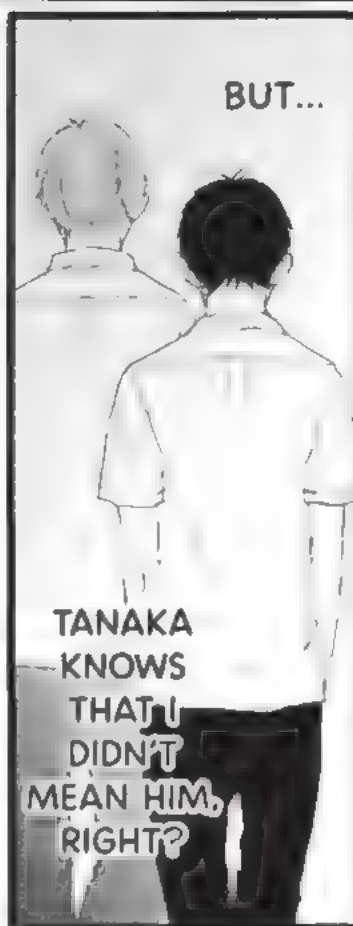


AH.



IT WILL  
BE OKAY,  
RIGHT?

I  
MEAN...



BUT...

TANAKA  
KNOWS  
THAT I  
DIDN'T  
MEAN HIM,  
RIGHT?



DID HE  
HEAR  
THAT?



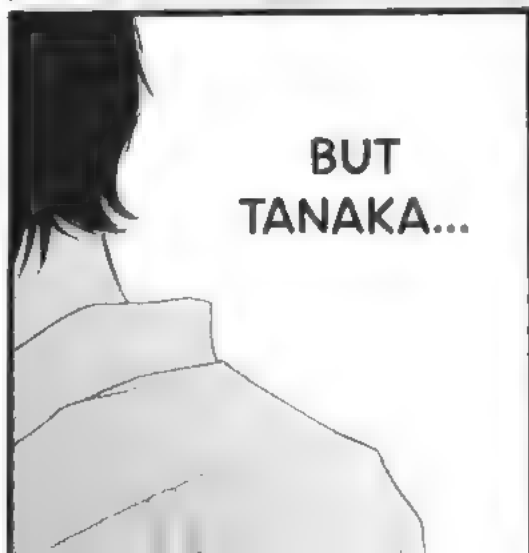
OUR EYES  
MEET  
ALL THE  
TIME.



...ALWAYS  
LOOKS  
AWAY  
NOW.



...AT THE  
CLOCK  
TOWER IN  
SANKAKU  
PARK.



BUT  
TANAKA...



HE KNOWS  
I THINK HE'S  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
OTHERS.

TANAKA  
UNDERSTANDS.

IT'S  
OKAY.

THERE'S  
NO NEED  
FOR ME TO  
EXPLAIN.

I'M SURE HE  
UNDERSTANDS.

EVEN IF  
I DON'T  
EXPLAIN.



SEVEN  
O'CLOCK  
...

...AT THE  
CLOCK  
TOWER...

...IN  
SANKAKU  
PARK...



MAYBE  
HE HATES  
ME.

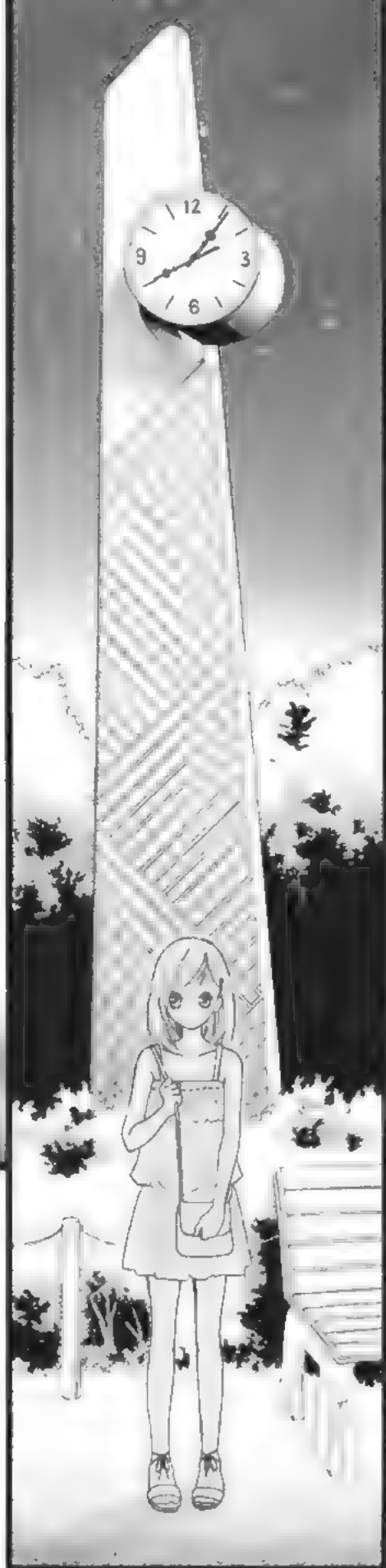
OR  
MAYBE...

MAYBE HE  
MISUNDER-  
STOOD  
AFTER ALL.

...HE NEVER  
INTENDED...

SEVEN  
O'CLOCK.  
THE CLOCK  
TOWER IN  
SANKAKU  
PARK.

...TO ASK  
ME OUT?



MAYBE...

...THAT  
WASN'T AN  
INVITATION.

AND  
FROM  
THAT  
MOMENT  
ON...

I  
WAS...

...IMPATIENT.

WHAT?!

...ALL I  
WANTED  
TO DO  
WAS...



I  
COULDN'T  
WAIT FOR  
SUMMER  
VACATION  
TO BE  
OVER.

...FIND  
OUT  
WHAT HE  
MEANT.





WHAT?  
TANAKA'S  
GONE?

NOBODY  
KNOWS HOW  
TO CONTACT  
HIM?  
SERIOUSLY?

DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?



TANAKA  
TRANSFERRED  
SCHOOLS?!

WHAT? WE  
DIDN'T HEAR  
ANYTHING.

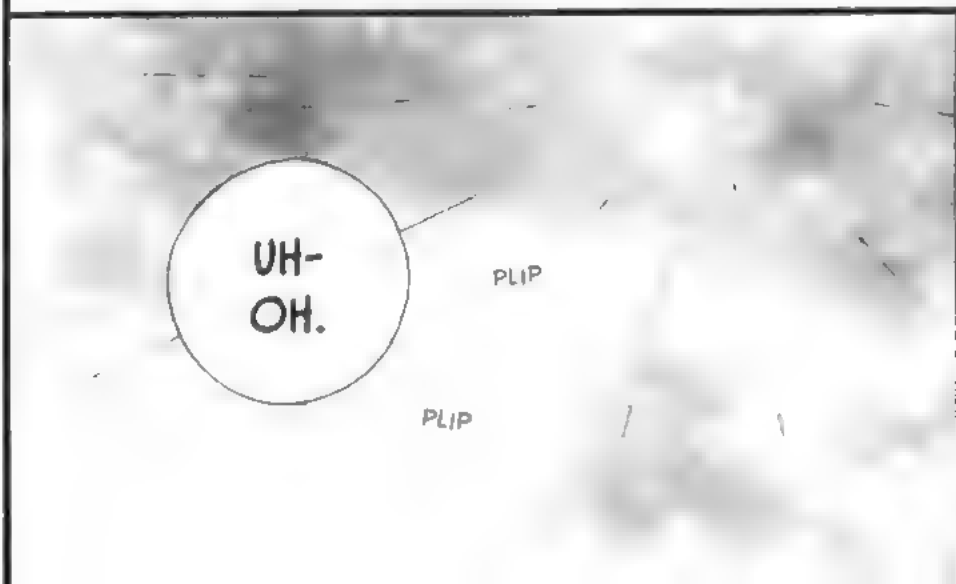
HE MOVED  
OVER THE  
SUMMER?!

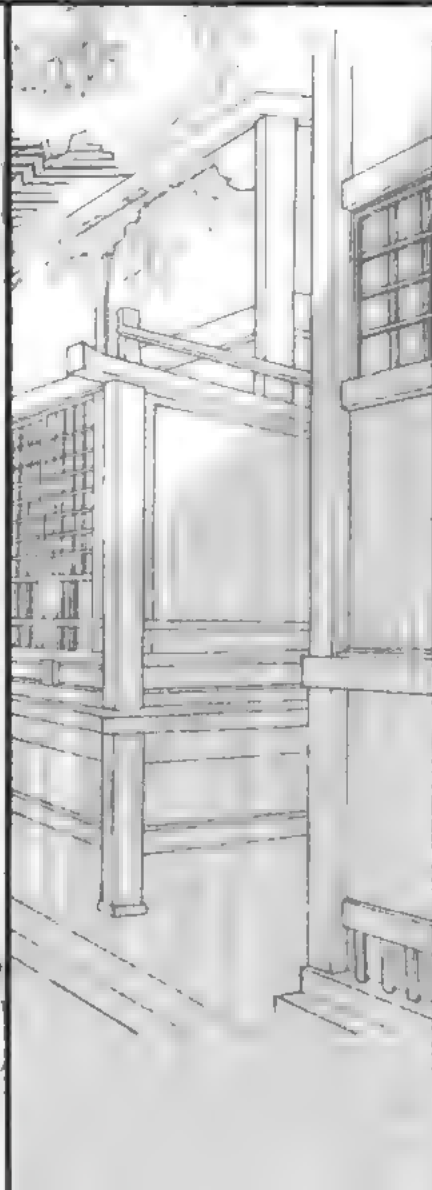


TANAKA WAS  
THAT SHORT  
GUY, RIGHT?

BY THE  
SECOND  
SEMESTER...

...TANAKA  
WAS  
GONE.











I LIKED  
TANAKA.


AAAH...

EVEN  
THOUGH...

...IT WAS A  
VAGUE AND  
FUMBLING  
CRUSH...

...I  
STILL  
LIKED  
HIM.

WHEN WILL  
THE NEXT  
TIME BE?!



WILL I  
EVER  
SEE HIM  
AGAIN?

I WANT  
TO SEE  
HIM  
NOW.

BUT...

...NOTHING  
EVEN  
STARTED...

...NOTHING  
AT ALL.



TANAKA...

I WONDER  
WHAT...

...YOU'RE  
THINKING  
NOW.



Right away people sent letters and tweets, asking about the meaning of the Japanese title *Aoharaido*. So I'd like to take a moment to answer.

**Aoharaido = youth + ride**

The Japanese kanji for "youth"\* can also be read as *aoharu*, and I imagine that the characters are on a ride through their youth, giving it all that they can. Compared to *aoharuraido*, when you say it out loud, *aoharaido* is easier to say and more impactful, so that became the title of the series.

Writing this story reminds me of my own high school days, and while I look back at the many things that I would've liked to have done better, I also remember that I felt overwhelmed at the time, and I was doing the best I could. (Although I still feel overwhelmed.)

Sometimes you're optimistic, sometimes you're pessimistic, and sometimes you just can't see clearly, which is overwhelming in itself. Overwhelmed by both the good and the bad. To me, that's what I picture when I think of youth. What about you?

\*The kanji for "youth" is 青春 (seishun). The *ao haru* reading means "blue spring."



# Ao Haru Ride

The scent of air after rain...  
In the light around us, I felt your heartbeat. CHAPTER 1







The Towelket Club is the second door from the left.

Before  *Ao Haru Ride*  was  *Strobe Edge*  I wrote about this in there a few times, and I plan to continue it here as well. The Towelket Club is looking for new members! The Towelket Club is for peaceful people who love the large towel blankets known as "towelkets." But it's not the kind of club that meets to do things together. For the most part, we are active on our own. I really like towelkets. I can't truly relax in bed without one. I wish I could be wrapped in one when I'm awake, and I love worn-in ones the most. This is a great club that offers security to its members through the affirmation that there are people across Japan who share this love. When I started recruiting members for the club, I thought there were probably some others who liked towelkets, but I didn't expect there to be many. I'm honestly surprised there are so many towelket lovers out there. It's true! They are out there! Lots of them! Yes! If you loved and protected your towelket despite your parents telling you to "throw that dirty thing away" or accusing you for being "the only weird one"—well, congratulations! You've got company! Starting today, you can proudly say to your parents that there are many others out there. And if that doesn't help you out... I don't know.

Anyhow, the Towelket Club is still going strong!!  
Newcomers are warmly welcome!

Io Sakisaka, Towelket Club President

I NEVER GOT  
TO TELL HIM  
HOW I FELT  
ABOUT HIM.

TANAKA  
MOVED AWAY  
THE SUMMER  
OF OUR FIRST  
YEAR OF  
JUNIOR HIGH.



IT'S  
BEEN  
THREE  
YEARS...

AND  
HE'S STILL  
SOME-  
WHERE  
DEEP  
DOWN IN  
MY HEART.

I WISH...

...I  
COULD  
GO BACK  
TO THAT  
TIME.

GOOD  
MORNING,  
FUTABA!

A black and white manga-style illustration of a young woman with short, wavy hair and bangs. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She wears a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt and a thick, light-colored scarf. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

I'M  
FUTABA  
YOSHIOKA.

LIFE IS  
PEACEFUL  
THESE DAYS.

I'M IN  
MY LAST  
SEMESTER  
AS A FIRST-  
YEAR IN HIGH  
SCHOOL.

HEY!

GOOD  
MORNING,  
CHIE!

A black and white manga-style illustration of a library or bookstore. A young woman with short hair and a scarf (Futaba) is standing behind a counter, looking at a book. A young man with long hair is standing in front of her, holding a book. There are bookshelves in the background.

NO  
PROBLEM.

HERE'S  
YOUR  
BOOK  
BACK.

Thanks



IT'S  
BECAUSE  
I CARE  
THAT MY  
BAG IS  
LIKE THIS!

HA  
HA  
HA  
HA.

HEARING  
THAT  
HURTS.

SMOOSH!!



HOW IS  
YOUR BAG  
SUCH A  
MESS?

GIRLS ARE  
SUPPOSED  
TO CARE  
ABOUT THIS  
STUFF.



Sometimes  
I feel like  
the fourth  
dimension  
is inside of  
your bag

T  
H  
U  
K



AT LEAST  
SHE'S NOT  
LIKE HER.



Oh  
Morn-  
ing,  
Asumi

WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
SAYING?

WE LIKE  
FUTUBA THE  
WAY SHE IS.

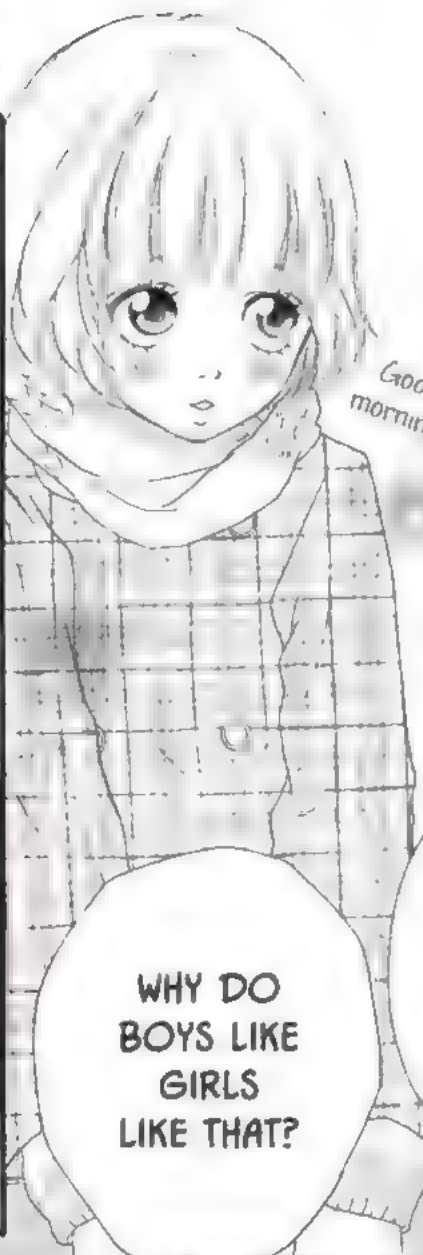




SHE  
JUST  
ACTS  
LIKE  
SHE IS.

SHE'S NOT  
EVEN THAT  
CUTE.

THE TWO OF  
YOU LOOK  
REALLY EVIL  
RIGHT NOW.



Good  
morning

WHY DO  
BOYS LIKE  
GIRLS  
LIKE THAT?

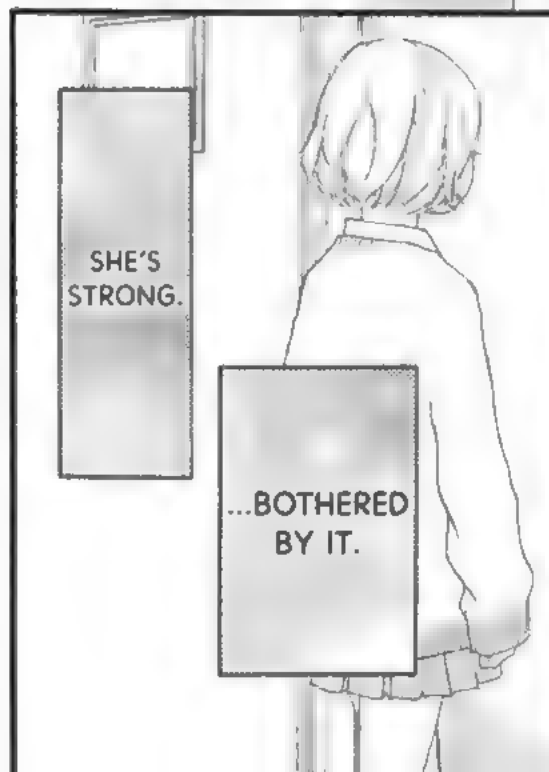


Morning  
Makita

LOOK AT  
HOW SHE  
ACTS IN  
FRONT OF  
THE BOYS!

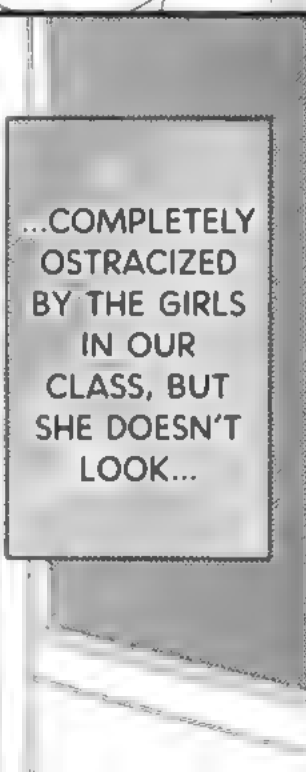
Argh!

YURI  
MAKITA IS  
SO FAKE.



SHE'S  
STRONG.

...BOTHERED  
BY IT.



...COMPLETELY  
OSTRACIZED  
BY THE GIRLS  
IN OUR  
CLASS, BUT  
SHE DOESN'T  
LOOK...



SHE'S  
...



AND  
SHE'S  
SWEET.

OH YEAH,  
SHE'S CUTE.

HEY, ISN'T  
YOSHIOKA  
PRETTY  
CUTE?

EVERY-  
THING  
WAS FINE  
FOR ME  
DURING  
THE FIRST  
YEAR OF  
JUNIOR  
HIGH.

I DON'T  
BELIEVE IT  
DOESN'T  
BOTTER  
HER.



YEAH,  
THOSE GIRLS  
ARE ALWAYS  
SQUAWKING  
ABOUT SOME-  
THING.

THE  
OTHER  
GIRLS  
SHOULD  
LEARN  
FROM  
YOSHI-  
OKA!

BUT THE  
NEXT YEAR,  
PEOPLE  
STARTED  
TALKING...

...I WAS  
ALONE.



FUTABA ACTS  
SO FAKE WHEN  
SHE'S AROUND  
GUYS.

UGH, SHE'S  
UNBEARABLE.

SUD-  
DENLY.



...TO  
START  
OVER  
IN HIGH  
SCHOOL.

...I KNEW I  
COULDN'T  
MISS THE  
CHANCE...

WHICH  
IS WHY...

IT  
CONTINUED  
LIKE THAT  
UNTIL WE  
GRADUATED.



YOU'VE  
GOT  
SUCH AN  
APPETITE.  
*Always*

EATING ALL  
THAT TODAY  
TOO?

FOOF\*  
FOOF

I'M CRAZY  
HUNGRY!  
LET'S HURRY  
BACK.

THIS  
IS THE  
NEW  
ME.



TANAKA!

TANAKA AND  
I WAITED OUT  
THE RAIN AT  
THE SHRINE...



...THE FIRST  
YEAR OF  
JUNIOR HIGH  
WAS THE  
BEST TIME  
OF MY LIFE.

WHEN I  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT...





WHAT WAS HE LIKE?!

WELL... YEAH.

YOU FELL FOR SOME-ONE?!



I THINK...



...NOT VERY TALL, AND KIND OF RESERVED.

HE WAS...

WHAT ABOUT HIS FACE?

What did he look like?

...IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS THE SAME LAST NAME AS MY FIRST LOVE.

WHAT?



MAYBE IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION.

I SHOULD LET IT GO.



WELL, HIS FACE...



THE TRUTH IS THAT MR. TANAKA...

...LOOKS A BIT LIKE MY TANAKA.

I already ate them

Hey, you took too many. Let me have some back!





HEY, DON'T  
YOU THINK  
YOSHIOKA  
FROM  
CLASS 2 IS  
CUTE?

STOP!  
DON'T  
SAY  
THAT.

YEAH.  
BUT  
SHE'S...



SINCE I  
REACT...

...I MUST  
NOT BE OVER  
TANAKA YET.

...TO THAT  
MAN'S NAME  
AND FACE...



BUT...

...HE'S  
GONE.



DID YOU  
HEAR THOSE  
BOYS JUST  
NOW?

YES,  
CHECK  
THIS  
OUT!

WATCH  
THIS!

SKARF  
SKARF  
SKARF

Can't you  
wait until  
we get  
Lark?

SEE?

AH.  
SHE'S...

IT'S  
JUST THAT  
I'M SO  
HUNGRY!

WHOA.  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

JANPAN



WHAT?!  
I DON'T  
NEED  
BOYS.

IF YOU  
ACTED MORE  
FEMININE...

...GUYS  
WOULD  
REALLY  
LIKE YOU.



I DON'T  
NEED BOYS  
WHEN I  
HAVE—



AH!



OOF!

B  
M  
P



THEY'RE  
NOTHING  
MORE  
THAN A  
CURSE.

I DON'T  
REALLY GET  
ALONG  
WITH THEM.

WOW,  
THAT'S  
NOT  
GOOD.





TANAKA?

WHY DID  
I JUST  
THINK  
THAT?

THAT  
WASN'T  
HIM.



FUTABA,  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?

LET'S  
GO.

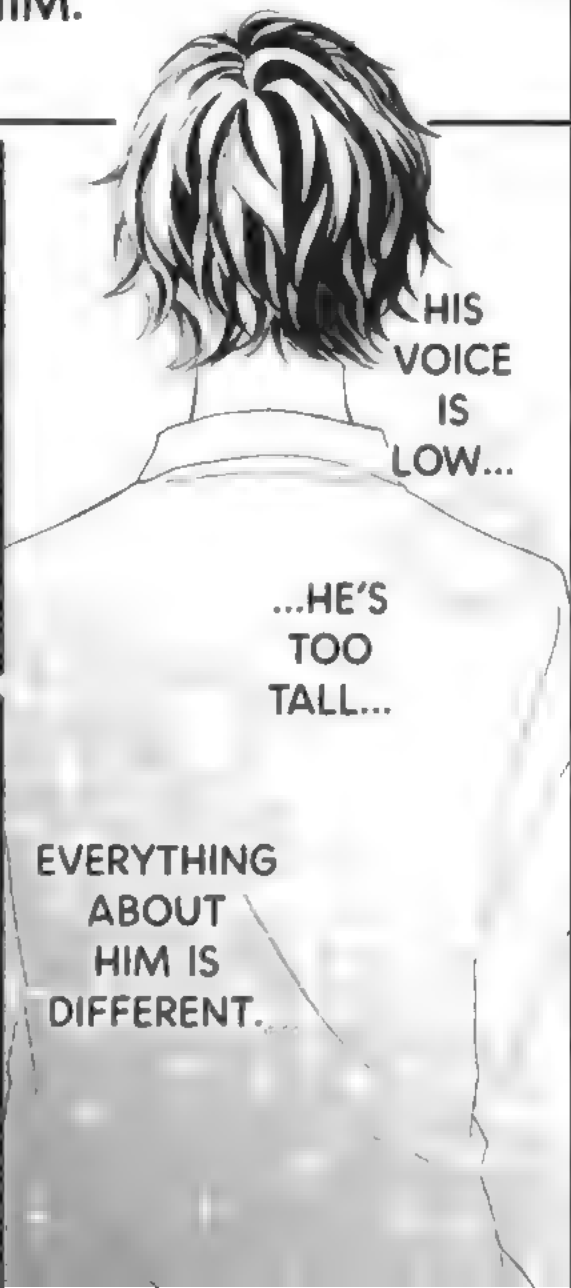
BUT  
I...

...FELT  
IT...



THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I FORGOT  
TO BUY.

...IN  
MY  
CHEST.



HIS  
VOICE  
IS  
LOW...

...HE'S  
TOO  
TALL...

EVERYTHING  
ABOUT  
HIM IS  
DIFFERENT.



HIS VOICE...

...AND HIS HEIGHT...



WHY?

SORRY...

...GO ON AHEAD.

WHAT? YOU'RE BUYING MORE FOOD?



I'M NOT USED TO LOOKING AT BOYS' FACES.

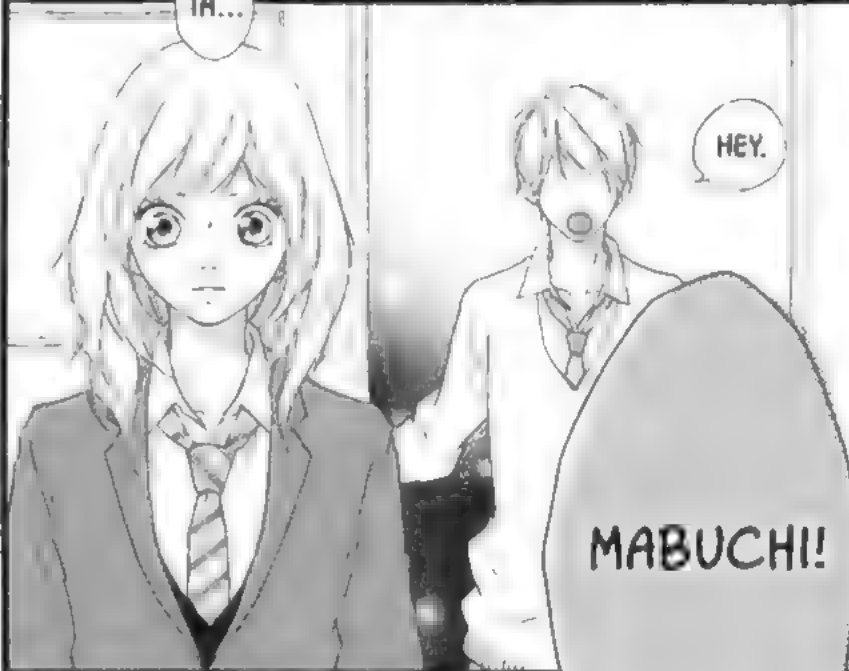


WHY DID I THINK HE'S TANAKA?

I SHOULD HAVE LOOKED AT HIM MORE CLOSELY.



...ARE ALL WRONG.







MABUCHI?

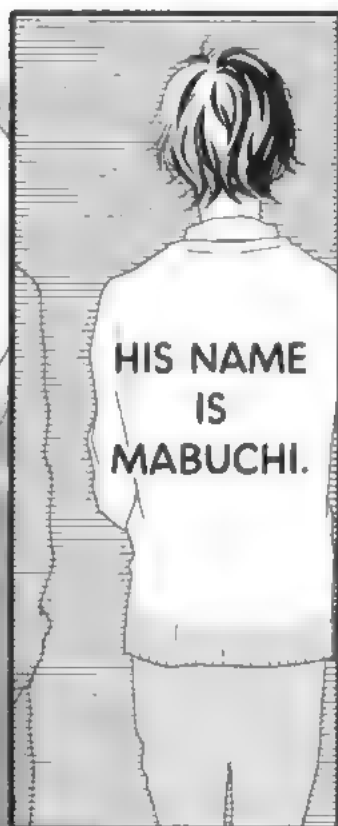
ME  
TOO.

YOU  
GOING  
TO THE  
CAFETERIA?



IT  
ISN'T  
HIM.

I GUESS MY  
MIND WAS  
PLAYING  
TRICKS ON  
ME.



HIS NAME  
IS  
MABUCHI.



HE  
LOOKS...

...LIKE  
TANAKA.

BUT...



OH.

THERE'S  
MAKITA.



I'M GLAD I  
DIDN'T SAY  
ANYTHING.



OUR  
EYES  
MET.



IT'S OKAY.  
IT'S WARM  
OUT  
TODAY.

GRIN

THANKS.



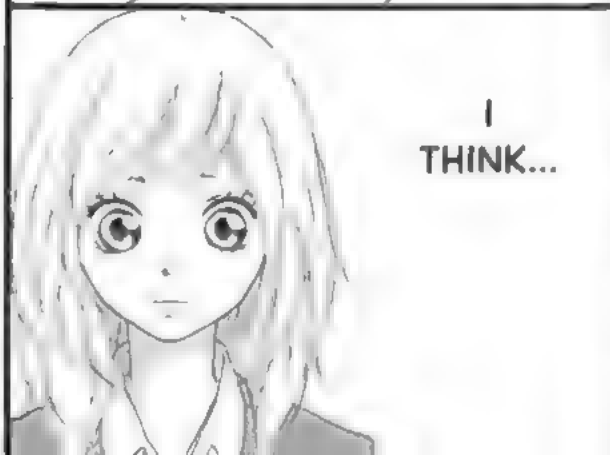
I CAN'T  
PRETEND I  
DIDN'T SEE  
HER NOW.



Hey

AREN'T  
YOU  
COLD?

WHY DON'T  
YOU EAT IN  
THE CLASS-  
ROOM?



I  
THINK...



**SINCE  
THE BOYS  
ALWAYS  
PAY  
ATTENTION  
TO HER...**



**BOYS GO  
FOR DOCILE  
GIRLS LIKE  
HER. THEY'RE  
SO DUMB.**

**FUTABA?  
DO YOU  
THINK  
SHE'S THAT  
CUTE?**



**...WE  
DON'T  
HAVE TO.**



...IS  
MORE  
IMPOR-  
TANT!

HAVING  
FRIENDS...

YOU  
KNOW...





YEAH!  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

...BE FRIENDS  
WITH FUTABA IF  
SHE WASN'T SUCH  
A TOMBOY.

WE  
COULDN'T...



I WAS  
RIGHT!

OH...

...MY

HER FACE  
IS REALLY  
CUTE...

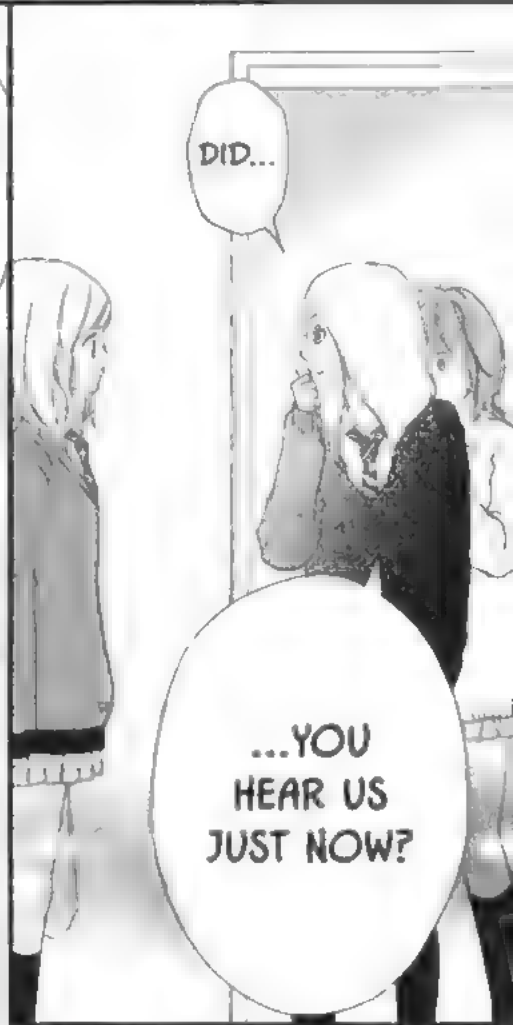
...SO IF SHE  
ACTED FEMININE,  
I BET SHE'D  
ANNOY ME.

GO,  
ME!

I MADE  
THE  
RIGHT  
DECISION.

SEE?

SEE?







SHE'S  
INTENSE.

SHE'S  
KIND OF  
SCARY.

THAT'S  
SHUKO  
MURAO  
FROM  
CLASS 1.

TAP  
TAP  
TAP

MURAO.

SHE'S  
ANOTHER  
LONE WOLF.

...I DON'T  
THINK  
WE'D GET  
ALONG.

SINCE  
SHE'S  
OKAY WITH  
BEING  
ALONE...





AH!



I LIVE  
AROUND  
HERE.

DON'T  
WORRY!  
I'M NOT  
FOLLOWING  
YOU!



OH  
NO! HE  
HEARD  
ME!

HE  
TURNED  
AROUND.

SILENCE



WHY DID  
I SAY  
THAT?



THIS IS  
MY WAY  
HOME  
TOO.

I'M NOT  
FOLLOWING  
HIM.

...



...LIVE IN MY  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD?

DOES  
HE...

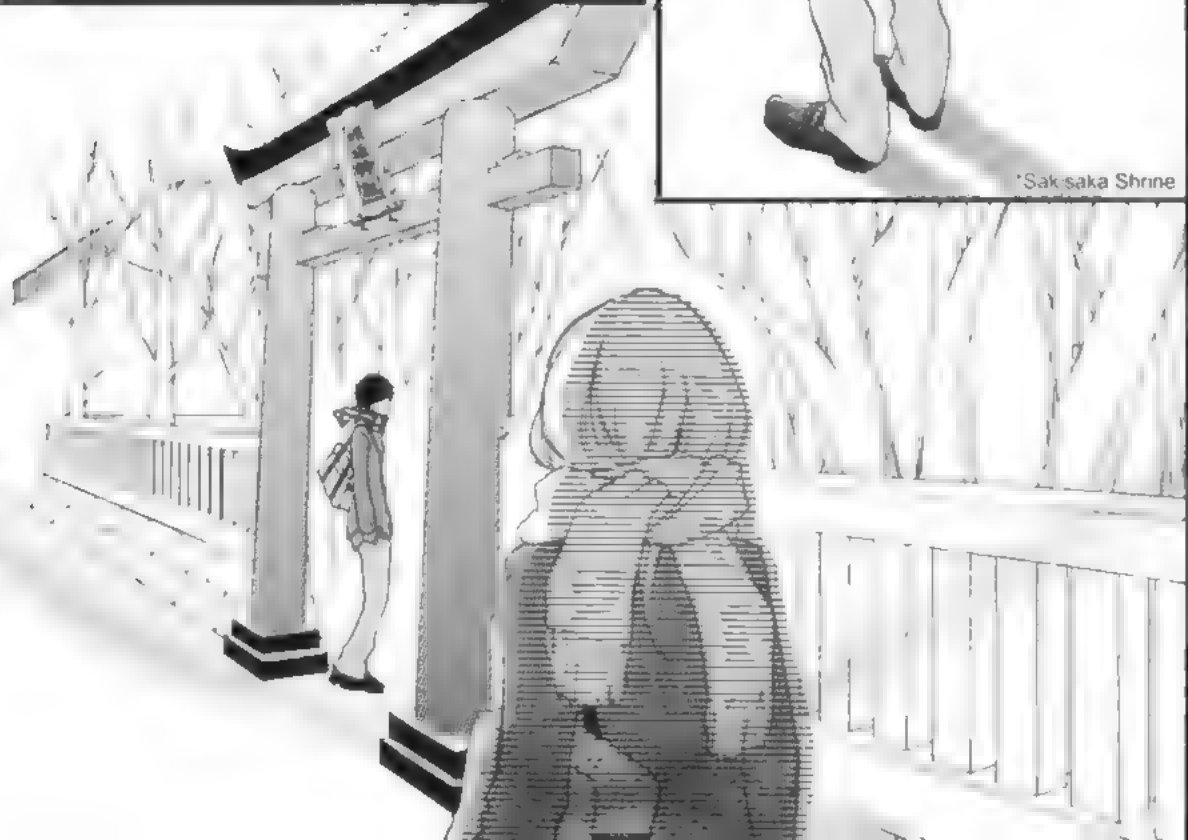
HM?

HOLD  
ON.



HUH?

THEN HE  
MUST  
BE...



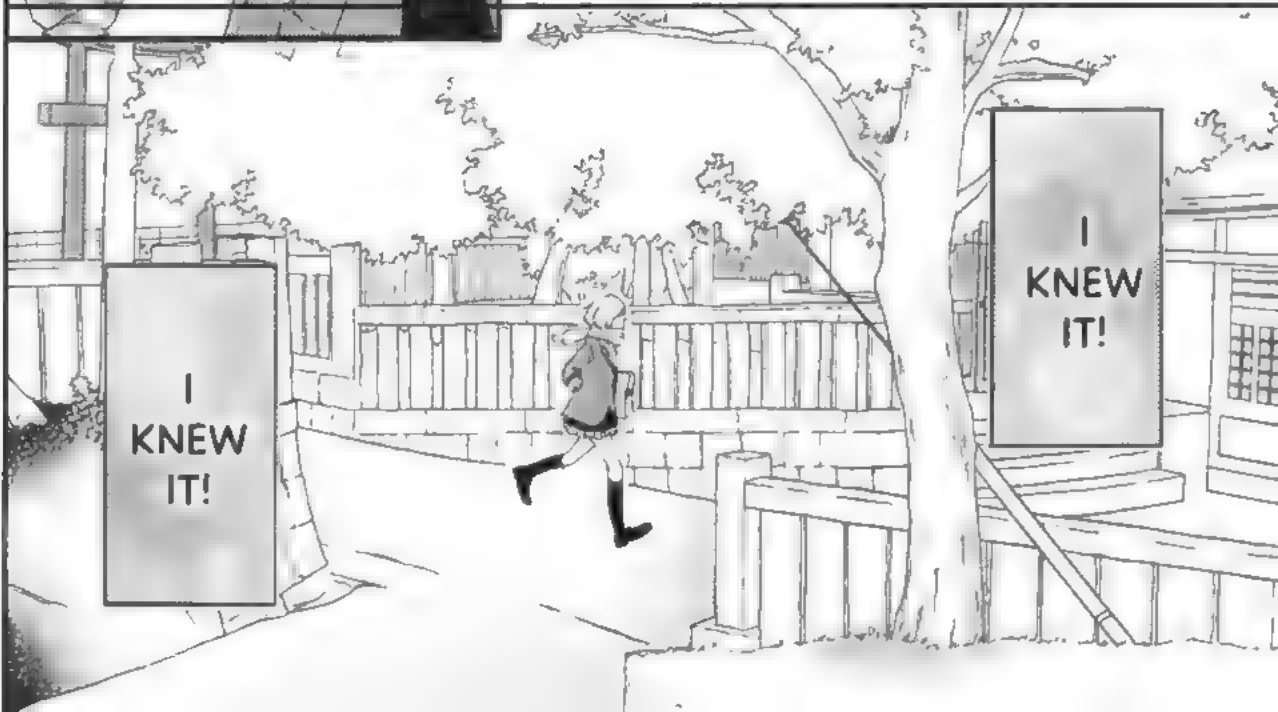


THIS  
IS THE  
SHRINE...



...WHERE  
WE  
WAITED  
OUT THE  
RAIN  
TOGETHER.

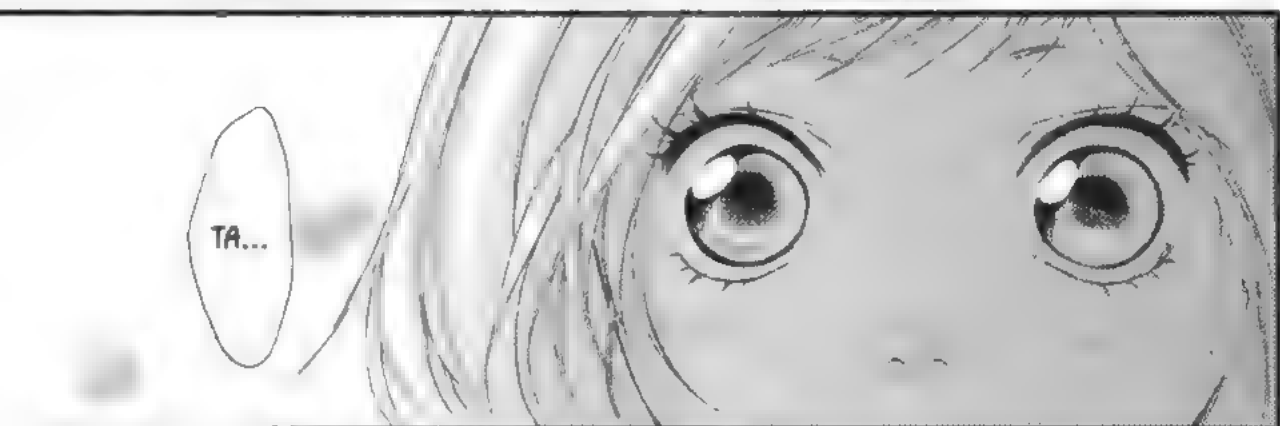
IT CAME  
DOWN ALL OF  
A SUDDEN,  
HUH?



I  
KNEW  
IT!

I  
KNEW  
IT!















I'M NOT  
TANAKA  
ANYMORE.

...



I'M KOU  
MABUCHI  
NOW.



I KNEW IT  
WAS YOU!



WHEN MY  
PARENTS  
DIVORCED...

...I  
CHANGED  
MY NAME.



BUT...

...AND HIS  
NAME ARE  
DIFFERENT.



HIS  
VOICE...

...HIS  
HEIGHT...



MY  
FIRST  
LOVE.

YOU  
KNOW...



...I  
WONDERED  
WHEN YOU'D  
RECOGNIZE  
ME.

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE IT  
TOOK YOU  
THIS LONG.



HUH?

IT'S  
HILARIOUS.



...THAT  
BOY...

...IS  
HERE  
NOW.





I KNEW YOU  
RIGHT AWAY  
EVEN THOUGH  
YOU'RE SO  
ODD NOW.



IS  
HE...

...REALLY  
TANAKA?



So  
odd  
now?

YOU USED TO  
BE QUIET, BUT  
YOU'VE TOTALLY  
CHANGED.



I TOLD  
YOU, MY  
NAME IS  
MABUCHI.



TH-THEN  
WHY DIDN'T  
YOU SAY  
SOME-  
THING?

I'M NOT  
TANAKA.

YOU'VE  
CHANGED  
TOO,  
TANAKA!



WELL.

SHALL  
WE...

WHO  
IS THIS  
BOY?

NOT  
THAT I  
SHOULD  
TALK-

Mean



COME  
HERE.

...REUNITE  
WITH A  
HUG?







YEAH...

MY  
VOICE  
IS  
SHAKY.

JUST  
LIKE  
BACK  
THEN...

...DURING  
THE BEST  
TIME OF  
MY LIFE.

ME  
TOO.



WHAT  
?

OH.

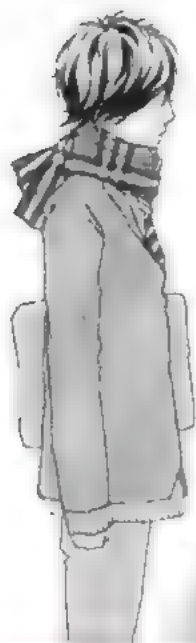
REALLY?



BUT...

...YOU  
WERE  
DIFFERENT.

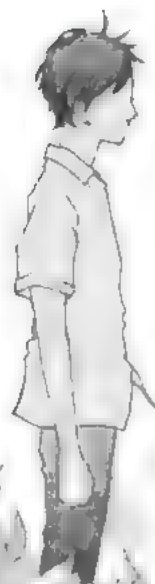
I'VE  
WAITED  
FOREVER  
TO SAY  
THIS...



I  
LIKED  
YOU.



I'M  
RETURNING...



...TO THE  
BEST TIME  
OF MY  
LIFE.





BUT WE  
CAN'T GO  
BACK.



YOU  
HAVE  
TOO.

I'VE  
CHANGED  
SINCE  
THEN.



IT WAS  
A LONG  
TIME AGO.

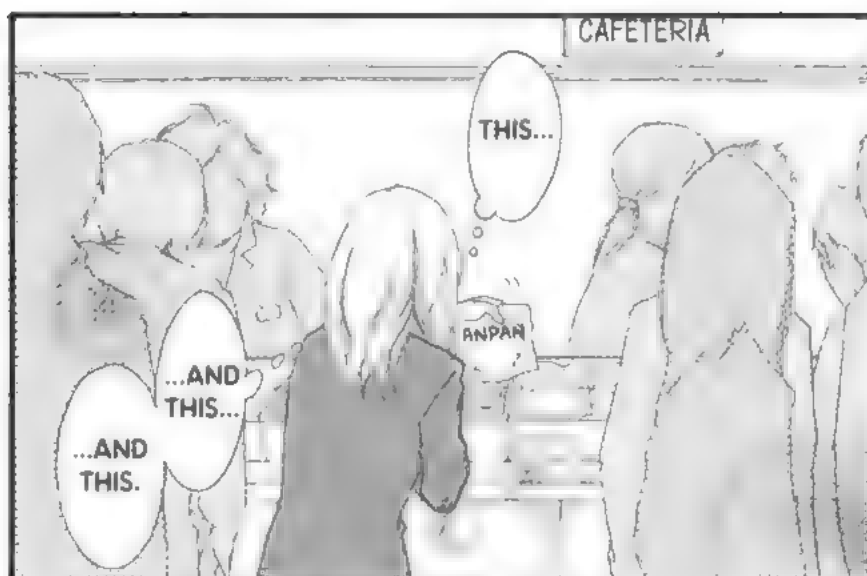


## New Characters

Though volume 1 is coming out now, I'm still not used to drawing the characters. It really takes a while. And when my deadlines get close, I panic...and resentment starts to build. It's a constant battle because I know that I need to build a friendship with these kids

It's unusual for me, but several characters in this story have colored hair. Shiny hair takes a long time to draw—I resent it. And they are resentful in turn. They steal my time!!! They require so much time and effort... So at the very least I need you readers to love them. I hope you enjoy them!





I  
SENSE  
IT.



**TANAKA!**

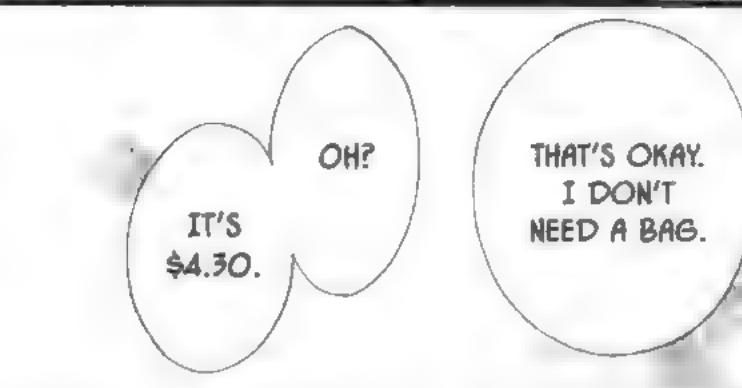
I wasn't expecting  
to see him!

IT  
SHOULDN'T  
MATTER TO  
YOU.

!

RIGHT?  
MAKES YOU  
WANT TO  
BACK OFF,  
HUH.

HEH  
HEH





WHERE  
DID CHIE  
GO?

LET'S  
SEE...



WHAT?  
I ALREADY  
PAID.

YOU  
HAVEN'T  
PAID FOR  
THAT YET.



THEN WHY  
AREN'T THOSE  
IN A BAG?

DON'T  
LIE.

HEY,  
THERE'S  
FUTABA.



HOLD  
ON,  
THERE.

YES?





ASK THE  
WOMAN  
OVER THERE.



OKAY.

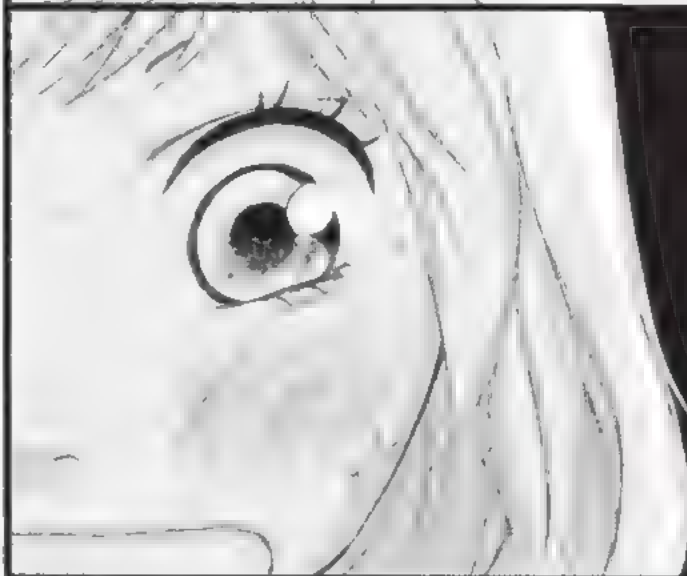
YOU CAN  
GO.



WHAT?  
REALLY?



WHAT?  
YEAH, SHE  
PAID ME.



WH...  
WHAT?!











HARDLY.

YEAH...  
AT FIRST  
I WAS SO  
ANGRY.

SHE  
WOULDN'T  
LISTEN AT  
ALL.

THAT WOMAN  
WAS OBVIOUSLY  
IN THE WRONG.



UM...

THANKS.

YOU REALLY  
SAVED ME  
BACK THERE.



BUT WHEN  
YOU BACKED  
ME UP...

...I DIDN'T  
MIND  
ANYMORE.



IF THAT'S  
ALL IT  
TAKES...

...YOU'RE  
PRETTY  
SHALLOW.



...



YOU  
HAVE...

...FAKE  
FRIENDS.



THAT'S  
WHY YOUR  
FRIEND-  
SHIPS...

...ARE  
TOO.



IT'S  
PATHETIC.



FAKE  
FRIENDS...

...

...



IT'S  
NOT MY  
PROBLEM.

OH  
YEAH?

DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.



I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND.

...THEN  
HE ACTS  
COLD.

FIRST  
HE  
HELPS...



TANAKA, IT  
MAY SEEM  
PATHETIC TO  
YOU...

...BUT  
THEY'RE  
IMPORTANT  
TO ME.



IS HE  
REALLY  
TANAKA?

OH.

...MY  
NAME IS  
MABUCHI.

AND  
ALSO...





I'VE  
CHANGED...

KOU  
TANAKA NO  
LONGER  
EXISTS.



...AND THE  
TANAKA I  
KNEW IS  
GONE!

THERE'S  
NO GOING  
BACK...

...TO  
THOSE  
DAYS.





# Ao Haru Ride

The scent of air after rain...  
In the light around us, I felt your heartbeat.

CHAPTER 2

When I create manga, I periodically feel anxious about my work. When that happens, I always go to others for their opinions and advice, but everyone has a different opinion. And when I hear their thoughts, I always think the same thing: "This is how it always goes." What I mean is that there is no perfect solution. I know this, but I still get anxious and repeat the process over and over, though their advice only makes me more confused. There's really no point in doing this. It may be important to hear the opinions of many people, but once I try out those ideas and they don't work, I end up thinking, "Why don't these work for me?!" and I get discouraged. When really I should acknowledge they're not right for me and change my perspective. Also, if I get anxious, I should just talk to my editor. Yes, that's what I'll do. (It will be more work for my editor, but if you would mostly just lend an ear, then that will probably be enough for me. Thanks in advance for your help!) And so, together with Futaba and the others, I'd like to become stronger! Despite what I've written here, I think I'm generally strong, so please don't be too worried about me. This is who I am, so thank you in advance for your support.

★ Saki ★







HE'S PROBABLY  
STUDIED SO  
MUCH THAT HE'S  
FORGOTTEN HOW  
TO BE KIND.



IT'S  
NOT MY  
PROBLEM.

MY  
LONG-  
LOST  
LOVE...

DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.

...TURNED  
OUT  
TO BE  
MEAN-  
SPIRITED.

INSIDE FUTABA'S BRAIN



I THINK  
HE'S IN THE  
HONORS  
CLASS.

HONORS  
?!

NO WONDER  
I DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE  
HIM.

THEY'RE  
ON A  
DIFFERENT  
FLOOR.



WHAT A  
SHOCK.

WE REALLY  
CAN'T GO  
BACK TO THE  
WAY THINGS  
WERE.

SO WHAT?  
I STILL HAVE  
ASUMI AND  
CHIE.



I MISSED  
MY  
CHANCE...

...TO TELL  
THEM HE  
WAS MY  
FIRST LOVE.

SO HOW WAS  
YOUR GROUP  
DATE, ASUMI?

...  
IT WAS  
JUST  
OKAY.

WE WENT TO THE  
SAME JUNIOR  
HIGH, BUT HE  
TRANSFERRED  
EARLY ON.

MM.  
OH  
YEAH?

IT WAS  
MORE  
LIKE...

I DIDN'T  
EXACTLY  
MISS IT.

HEY,  
MAKITA.

Stop  
waving  
around  
your  
hop-  
sticks!

FWAP  
FWAP  
FWAP  
GET OUT  
ALREADY!

HEH  
HEH  
HEH

FWOP  
FAKE  
FRIENDS.





OUTSIDE...  
WITH FRIENDS  
FROM  
ANOTHER  
CLASS.

ISN'T IT  
COLD?



WHERE  
DO YOU  
GO FOR  
LUNCH?

YOU NEVER  
EAT IN THE  
CLASSROOM,  
DO YOU?



IT'S LIKE  
WE'RE  
HAVING A  
PICNIC.

I'M  
OKAY.



I CAN'T  
STAND  
YURI  
MAKITA.

WHY CAN'T THEY  
SEE THAT HER  
CUTENESS IS  
JUST AN ACT?

They're  
besotted

THERE'S NO  
WAY WE'D  
GET ALONG.

She annoys  
me



MAN,  
MAKITA IS  
ADORABLE.

Did you  
see her  
tiny lunch  
box?

YEAH, SHE  
MAKES ME  
FEEL WARM  
AND FUZZY  
INSIDE.





Until recently I couldn't draft out stories while listening to music, but suddenly I can. And I do it while wearing headphones. When I'm focused, I don't hear anything at all. But when I get stuck, I hear the music. And when I get really stuck, I start to think the music is too loud and annoying. It's so interesting. It feels like I'm moving between two worlds, and it's rather fascinating. Focus is really interesting.





HA  
HA.



ARE  
YOU  
KID-  
DING?!

IT'S SO  
COLD OUT  
TODAY!



THIS IS  
FOR  
YOU.

WHAT?



OH,  
I JUST  
REMEM-  
BERED.



BUT...

YOU WERE  
PLAYING WITH  
MINE, SO I  
THOUGHT MAYBE  
YOU LIKED IT.



HER  
HAND IS  
FREEZING  
COLD.

Oh  
THANKS.

I GOT  
TWO, SO  
THIS ONE  
IS FOR  
YOU.

IT WAS  
FREE WHEN  
I BOUGHT  
FABRIC  
SOFTENER.



THE OTHER  
GIRLS DON'T  
LIKE ME.

ISN'T SHE  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE EATING  
WITH FRIENDS  
FROM ANOTHER  
CLASS?



I GET NERVOUS  
IN FRONT OF  
BOYS, AND I  
CAN'T HELP IT.

I'm really self-  
conscious.




I KNOW I  
ACT TOO  
GIRLY...



THANKS...

...FOR TALKING  
TO ME TODAY,  
AND THE  
OTHER DAY.



WE ALL DRESS  
UP AND PUT  
ON MAKEUP...



MM...  
I CAN'T  
RELATE.




BUT  
I DON'T  
THINK IT'S  
WRONG...

...BECAUSE  
WE WANT  
TO LOOK  
GOOD FOR  
OTHERS.

...TO WANT  
BOYS  
TO THINK  
YOU'RE  
CUTE.



IF YOU  
WANT TO  
LOOK  
GOOD...



HOW IS THAT  
DIFFERENT  
FROM ME  
ACTING  
CUTE?

ACK

...TO ONLY  
APPEAL  
TO BOYS,  
THEN...



UM...

...



YEAH.

WE ALL HAVE  
DIFFERENT  
VALUES.

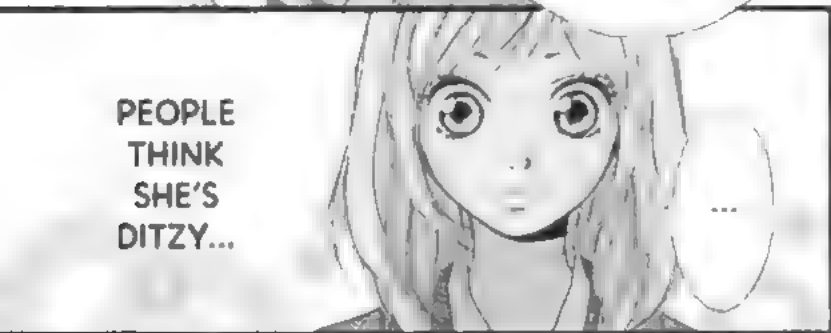
SO AM  
I THE  
SAME...?

DOES  
EVERY-  
THING  
SHE CAN  
TO ONLY  
APPEAL  
TO GIRLS



BUT  
ON THE  
OTHER  
HAND...

...I WANT TO  
BE TRUE  
TO MYSELF.



PEOPLE  
THINK  
SHE'S  
DITZY...

...



I  
UNDERSTAND  
WHY THE  
GIRLS THINK...

...I'M  
ANNOYING.



THAT  
DOESN'T  
MEAN...

...BUT SHE  
REALLY  
KNOWS  
HERSELF.



THANKS  
FOR  
THIS!

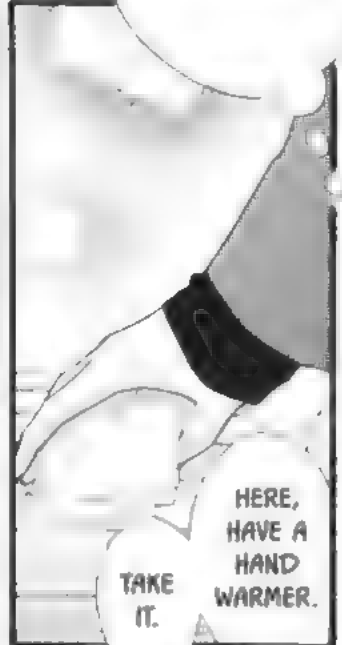


...SHE LIKES  
BEING BY  
HERSELF,  
THOUGH.



IN RETURN  
FOR THE  
BUNNY.

It's not really  
a fair trade



TAKE  
IT.

HERE,  
HAVE A  
HAND  
WARMER.



...



HEY.  
ARE YOU  
LISTENING?



HM...

I GUESS  
THAT  
MEANS...

...I'M HER  
OPPOSITE.





TANAKA IS  
TALKING  
TO MR.  
TANAKA...

PEEK

YEAH, I'M  
LISTENING.

YOUR  
SCORES  
ARE REALLY  
LOW.

YOU'RE  
GOING TO BE  
IN TROUBLE  
IF YOU DON'T  
TURN IT  
AROUND ON  
THE FINAL.

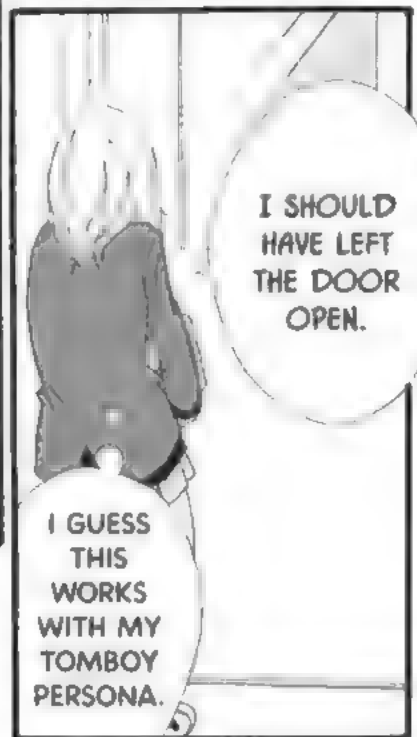
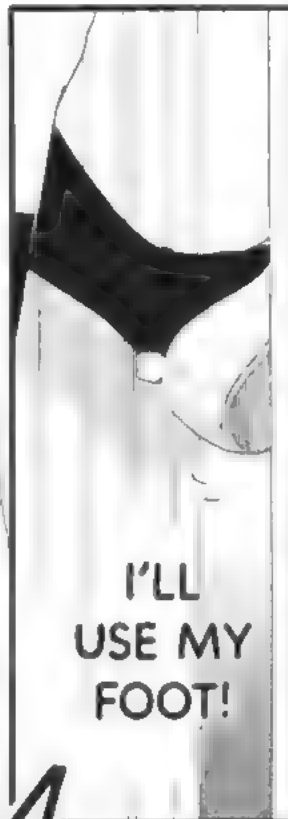


DOES  
MR. TANAKA  
TEACH THE  
HONORS  
CLASS?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
LOOKING  
AT?

JOLT



K  
L  
A  
K



THAT LOOKS  
HEAVY FOR  
ONE PERSON  
TO CARRY.



Huh?

**NO  
WAY.**

I'm not going  
upstairs



**KOU.**



YOUR  
SO-CALLED  
FRIENDS  
WOULDN'T HELP  
YOU OUT?

IF YOU THINK  
IT LOOKS  
HEAVY, WOULD  
YOU MIND  
HELPING ME?



LATER.

AH! YOU  
REALLY  
WON'T HELP  
ME?



TMP  
TMP  
TMP

MAN.

THAT  
BOY!



OH.  
CLASS 2.

OKAY.

Thank  
you

LET'S TAKE  
THE STAIRS.  
IT'S COLD  
OUTSIDE.

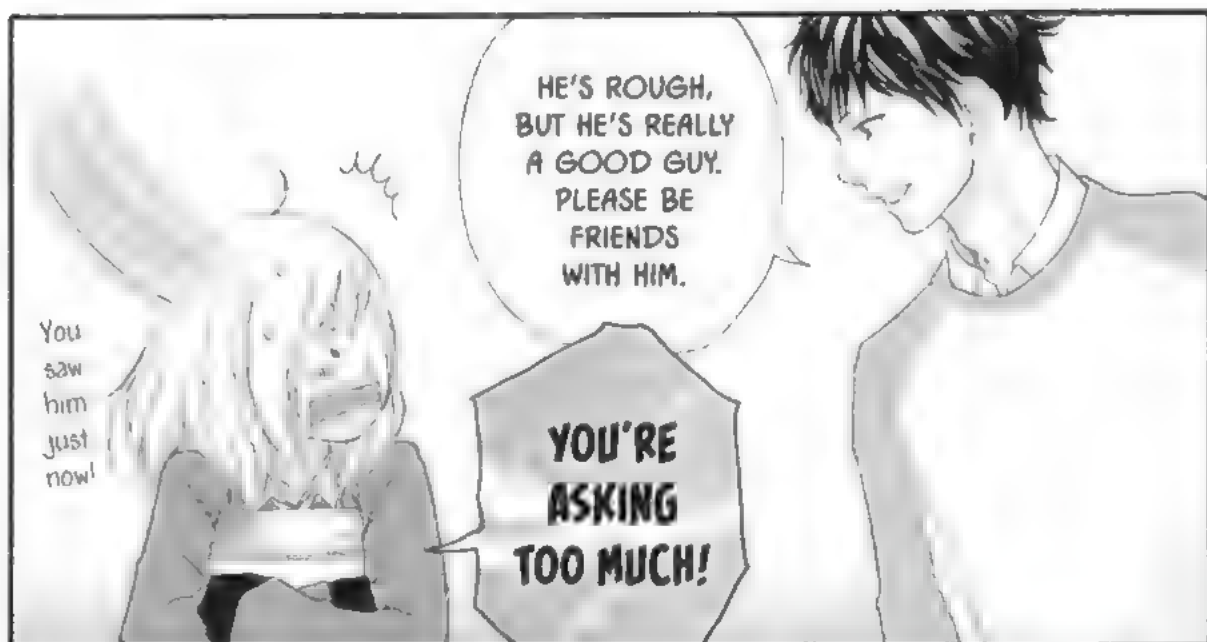


WHY IS  
MR. TANAKA  
APOLOGIZ-  
ING?

I  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR HIM...

LET ME HELP.  
WHICH CLASS  
ARE YOU IN?





You  
saw  
him  
just  
now!

HE'S ROUGH,  
BUT HE'S REALLY  
A GOOD GUY.  
PLEASE BE  
FRIENDS  
WITH HIM.

**YOU'RE  
ASKING  
TOO MUCH!**



**THEY  
DO  
LOOK  
ALIKE.**

OH...



**NO! I NEED  
TO STOP  
SEARCHING  
FOR THE OLD  
TANAKA!**

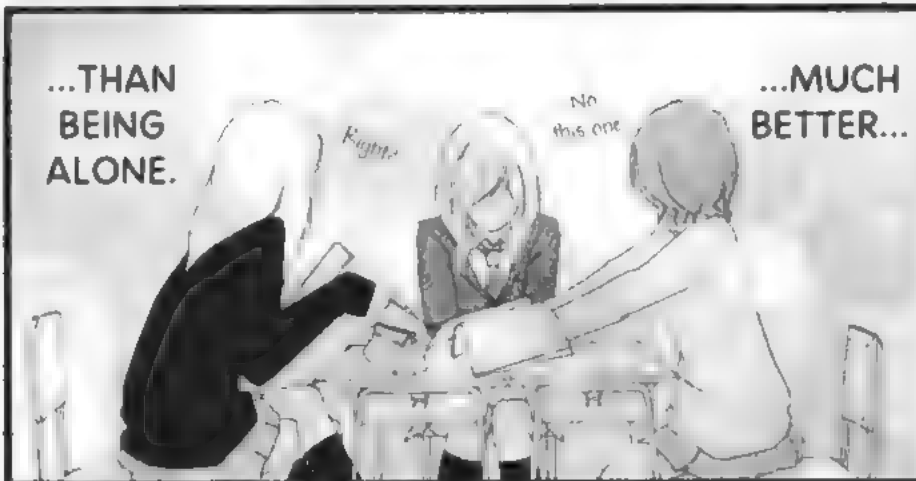
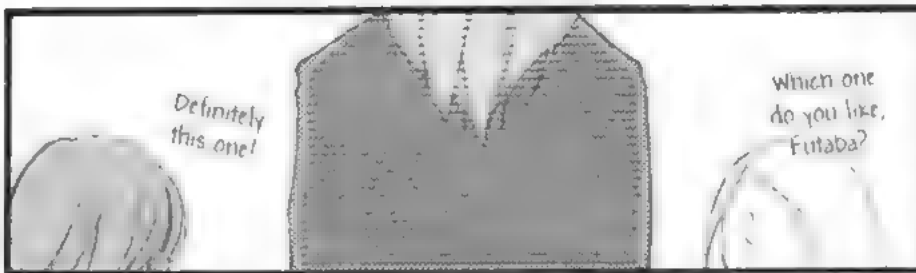
**ALL  
RIGHT.**



**HA  
HA  
HA**









...BECAUSE  
HE  
KNOWS  
THE OLD  
ME

HM?



WHAT'S  
IN YOUR  
POCKET?

OH,  
THIS?



IS THAT  
IT?

No  
THAT'S  
NOT  
IT.

I'M OVER-  
THINKING  
THIS...



TANAKA...

...OPENED  
UP MY  
HEART.



WHAT?  
OH NO.

ARE YOU  
GUYS  
FRIENDS  
NOW?

MAKITA  
GAVE IT  
TO ME.



SHE LIED?!  
THAT'S  
HILARIOUS.

OH REALLY?  
SHE WASN'T  
WITH HER  
FRIENDS?

SHE WAS  
EATING BY  
HERSELF.



THANKS  
FOR  
TALKING  
TO ME.

WELL, SHE'S  
THE TYPE THAT  
DOESN'T  
MIND BEING  
ALONE.



HA  
HA  
HA

She's got  
nerves of  
steel



HUH?  
WHAT'S  
GOTTEN  
INTO YOU?

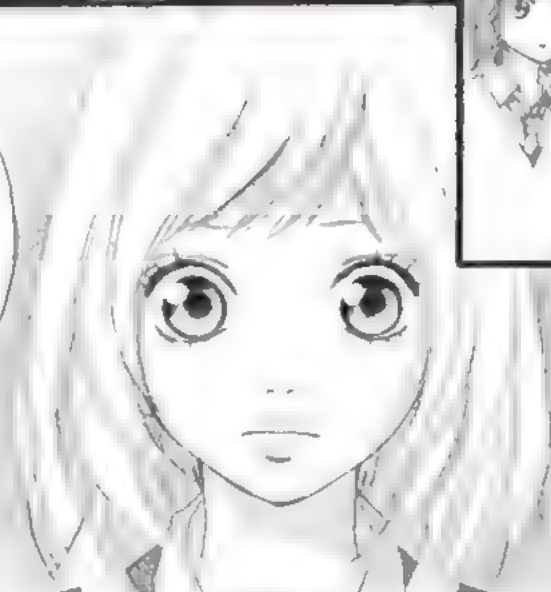
IF SHE  
DOESN'T  
WANT TO BE  
ALONE...



DO YOU  
REALLY  
THINK SO?



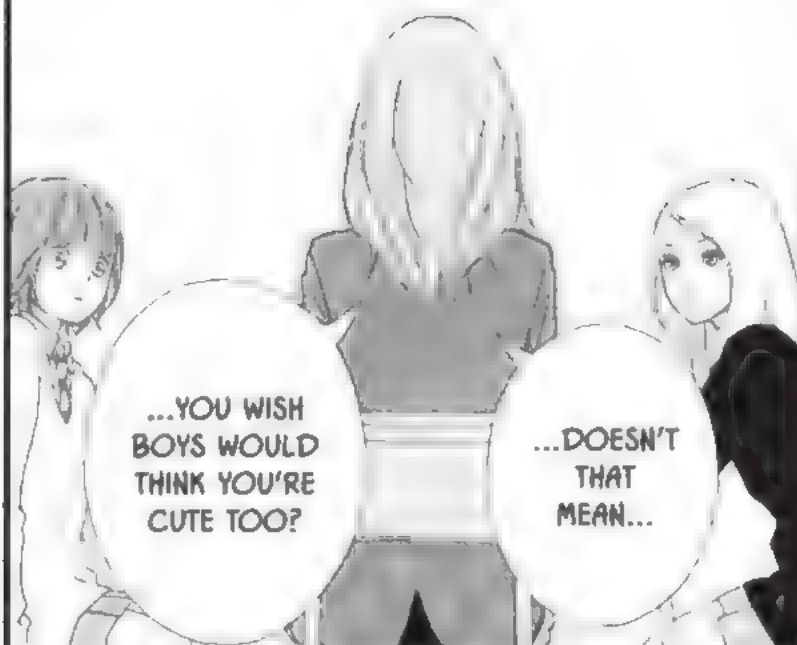
...SHE CAN  
HANG OUT  
WITH THE  
GUYS.



SINCE THE BOYS  
ALWAYS PAY  
ATTENTION TO  
HER, WE DON'T  
HAVE TO.



IT'S FINE.  
THE GUYS  
WILL TALK  
TO HER.



...YOU WISH  
BOYS WOULD  
THINK YOU'RE  
CUTE TOO?

...DOESN'T  
THAT  
MEAN...

IT'S UNFAIR  
THAT SHE ACTS  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENTLY  
AROUND BOYS.



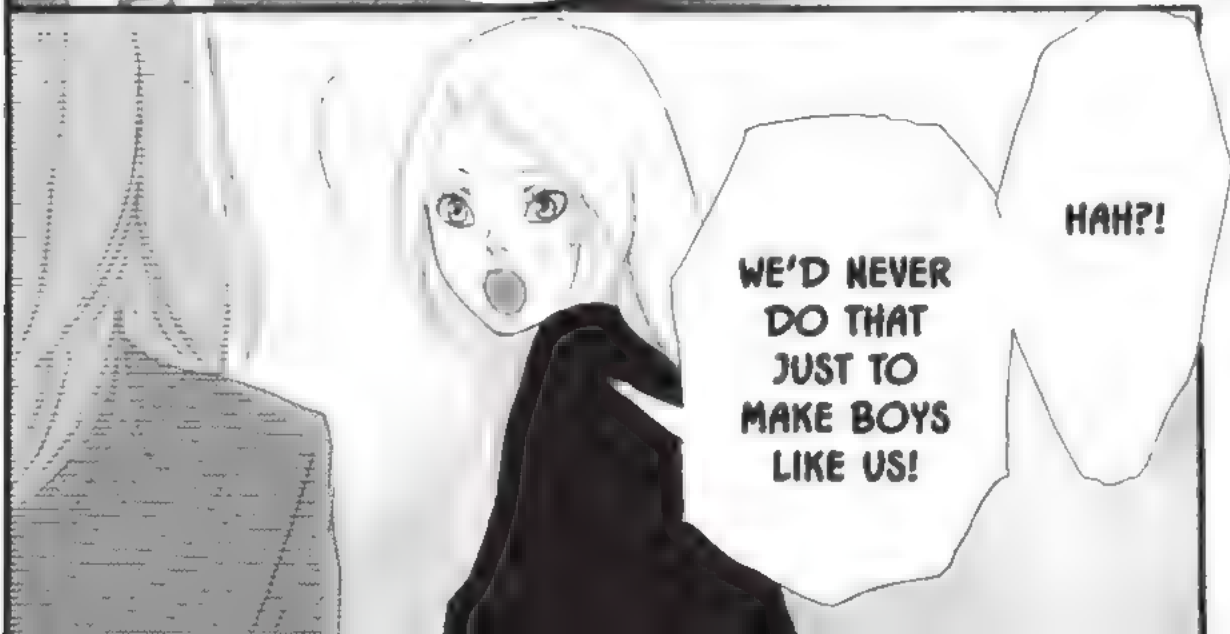
THEN WHY  
NOT STOP  
COMPLAINING...

...AND ACT  
THAT WAY  
AROUND  
THEM TOO?



...

IF YOU  
THINK IT'S  
UNFAIR...



WE'D NEVER  
DO THAT  
JUST TO  
MAKE BOYS  
LIKE US!

HAH?!





I  
SAID  
IT!!

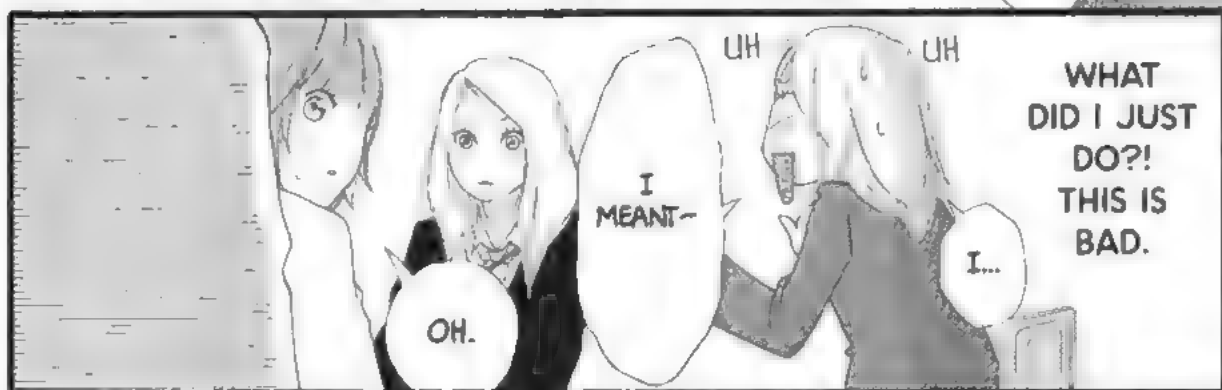


I...



...

...



UH

UH

I  
MEANT-

I...

WHAT  
DID I JUST  
DO?!  
THIS IS  
BAD.

OH.



...THEN  
IT MEANS  
DEEP DOWN  
SOME-  
WHERE...

...YOU'RE KIND  
OF OBSESSED  
WITH ME,  
RIGHT?



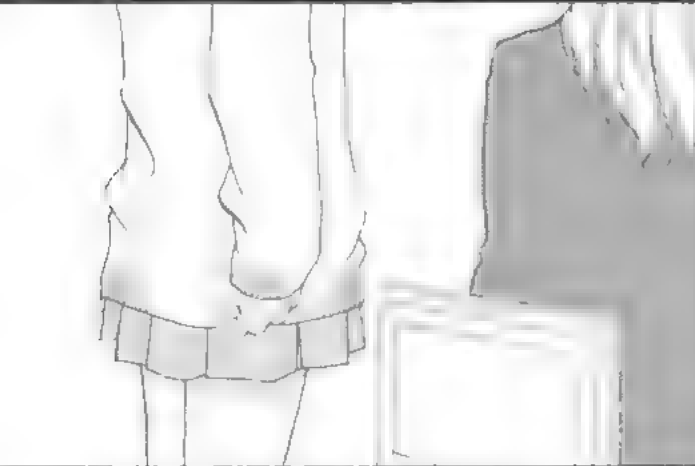
MAKITA!

IF YOU  
HATE ME...





M-MY  
GOOD-  
NESS!



SERVES  
YOU  
RIGHT!



UGH,  
THAT WAS  
ANNOYING.

KRRK

IT'S  
OVER.

WHAT  
DID I  
DO?

JOLT

FUTABA.

NOW WE  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU REALLY  
THINK OF US.

THAT'S  
ALL IT  
TOOK.

...DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO BE  
ALONE  
AGAIN.

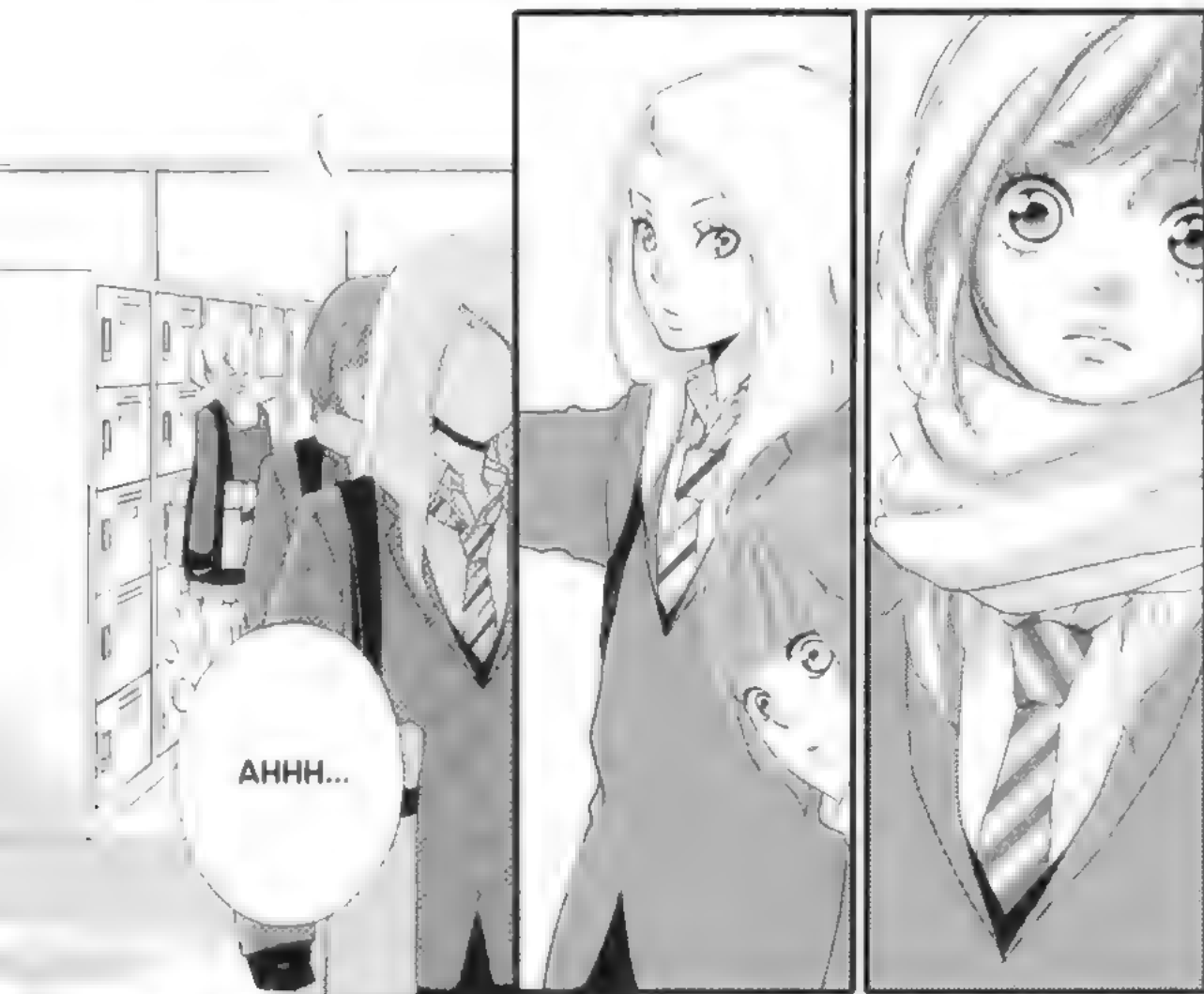
I...

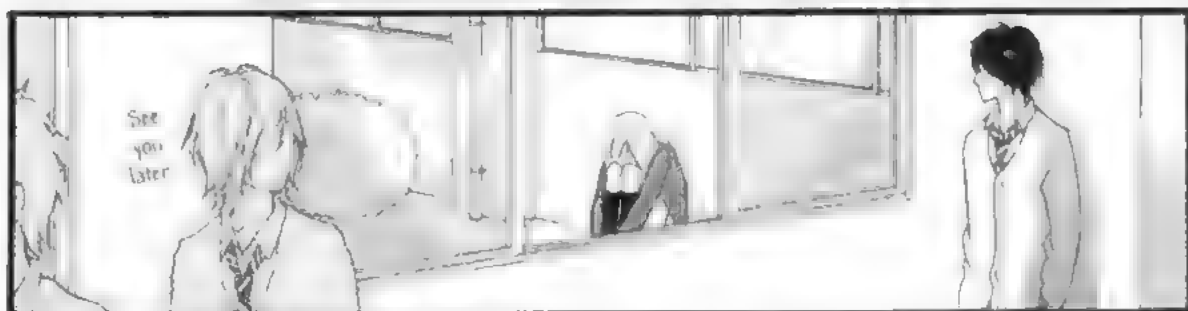
NOW....

I  
WORKED  
SO HARD.











BECAUSE  
YOU...

...CALLED  
THEM FAKE  
FRIENDS!



IT...

IT'S  
BECAUSE  
OF WHAT  
YOU SAID...



HUH?



SO IT'S  
MY FAULT?





I DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO BE  
ALONE.

IT'S MY  
FAULT.



NO.



...AND  
IGNORED  
WHAT REALLY  
MATTERS.

I FORGOT  
ABOUT  
EMOTIONAL  
CONNECTIONS,  
TRUST...  
EVERYTHING.



I THOUGHT  
ONLY OF  
THAT...



OKAY,  
BYE.

NO  
PROB-  
LEM.

SORRY FOR  
TAKING IT  
OUT ON  
YOU.

I NEVER  
TRIED TO  
BUILD  
THOSE  
BONDS.



I'VE MADE  
SO MANY  
MISTAKES.

I'M SO  
ASHAMED.

PLUB  
PLUB



ACK!  
THEY'LL  
SEE ME!



IT'S MY  
FAULT.





Take that  
outside..



I'M  
GRATEFUL  
HE'S  
HIDING  
ME,  
BUT!!!

WHAT  
?!



AH.



MIXED IN  
WITH HIS  
COLOGNE...

WELL....



B-B-Mp

B-B-Mp

B-B-Mp

B-B-Mp



...IS A  
FAMILIAR  
SCENT.

YOU MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
DESPERATE...

...IF YOU LOST  
SIGHT OF  
EVERYTHING  
ELSE.



OR ARE  
YOU  
MEAN?

TANAKA, ARE  
YOU A NICE  
PERSON?

...



QUIT  
CALLING ME  
TANAKA.

ALSO...



I DON'T  
KNOW.

I DO WHAT  
I FEEL LIKE,  
WHEN I FEEL  
LIKE IT.

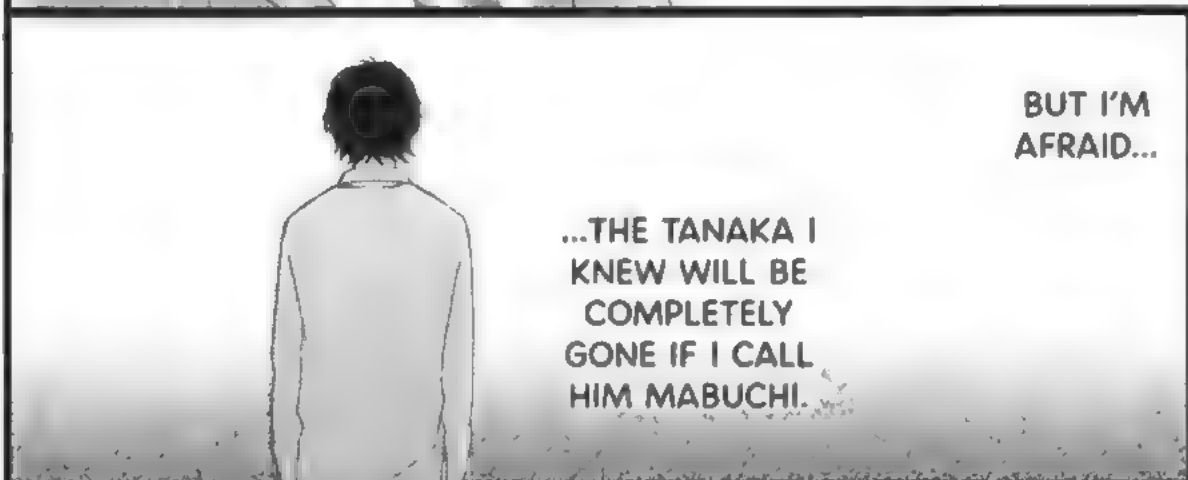


I  
SEE.

MAYBE IT'S  
PAINFUL  
FOR HIM TO  
BE CALLED  
TANAKA.



I'M  
GOING  
NOW.



BUT I'M  
AFRAID...

...THE TANAKA I  
KNEW WILL BE  
COMPLETELY  
GONE IF I CALL  
HIM MABUCHI.



SO...

IT'S  
TOO  
SAD.







THAT'S  
BETTER  
THAN  
TANAKA,  
RIGHT?

YOU DON'T  
MIND IF I  
CALL YOU  
KOU, DO  
YOU?

NOW WE'RE  
ON A  
FIRST-NAME  
BASIS?



...JUST DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU LIKE.

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU...

GLARE



Oh...  
He is kind  
of mean.



HE...

...DIDN'T  
SAY...

...I COULDN'T  
CALL  
HIM KOU,  
THOUGH.



...LOOKING  
FOR THE  
TANAKA I  
KNEW.

I DON'T  
THINK...

...I CAN  
STOP...

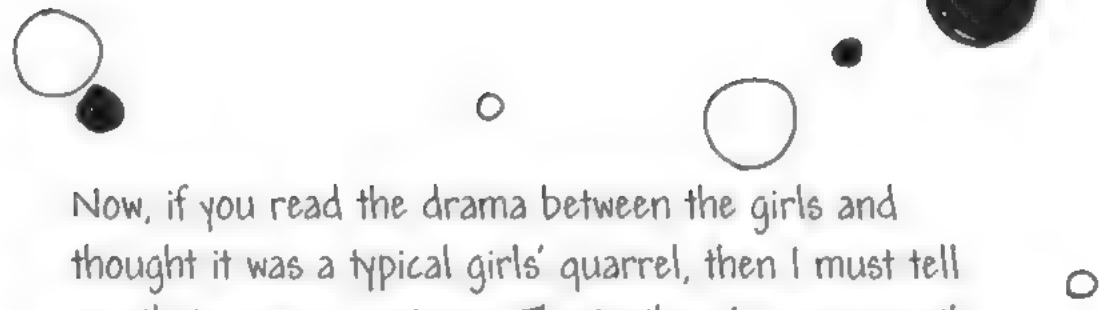




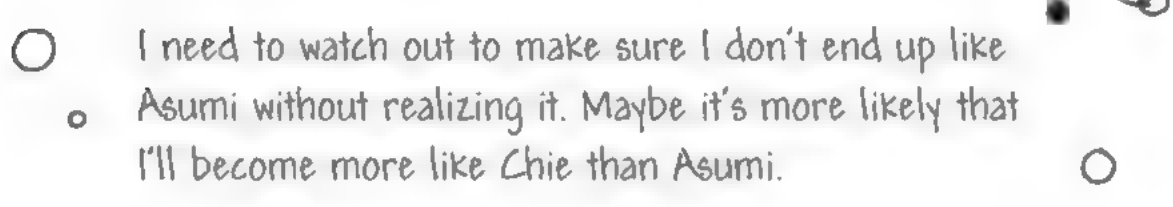
# Ao Haru Ride

The scent of air after rain...  
In the light around us, I felt your heartbeat.

CHAPTER 3

A collection of hand-drawn circles and dots of various sizes, some solid black and some hollow, scattered across the top of the page.

Now, if you read the drama between the girls and thought it was a typical girls' quarrel, then I must tell you that you are mistaken. The truth is I came up with Asumi's and Chie's lines based on a conversation I overheard between two men. They said, "That guy does well at work because he's good-looking. If that's all it takes, I'll go get plastic surgery." (They went on and on about it.) In our society, women are often said to be catty, but I don't think that's the case. It's not about gender. People who are like that are simply like that. I also think age doesn't play a role either. There are adults who are like this too. When I used to work for a company, there were many disingenuous older men there.

A collection of hand-drawn circles and dots of various sizes, some solid black and some hollow, scattered around the text.

I need to watch out to make sure I don't end up like Asumi without realizing it. Maybe it's more likely that I'll become more like Chie than Asumi.

I should be careful. I will be careful. Yes.

A collection of hand-drawn circles and dots of various sizes, some solid black and some hollow, scattered around the text.

I wish the world would overflow with nice people!

A large, dense collection of hand-drawn circles and dots of various sizes, some solid black and some hollow, filling the bottom of the page.



...SPOKEN  
TO ASUMI  
OR CHIE  
SINCE  
THAT  
INCIDENT.

I  
HAVEN'T...



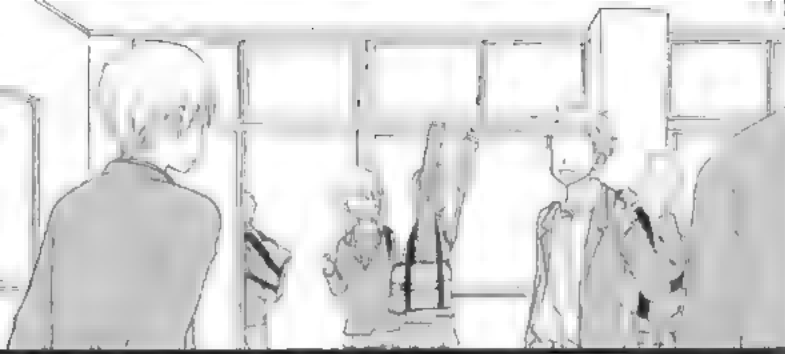
THIS IS  
MY LAST  
DAY AS  
A FIRST-  
YEAR.

Make sure  
to clear out  
your desks  
today

...DOESN'T  
TALK TO  
ME MUCH  
EITHER.

AND  
THE  
REST  
OF THE  
CLASS...





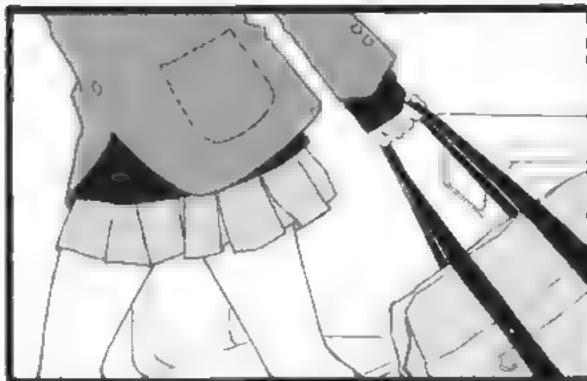
IS THIS  
HOW IT  
ENDS?



IS  
THIS  
IT?

ALL RIGHT,  
THAT'S IT!

*Class  
dismissed!*

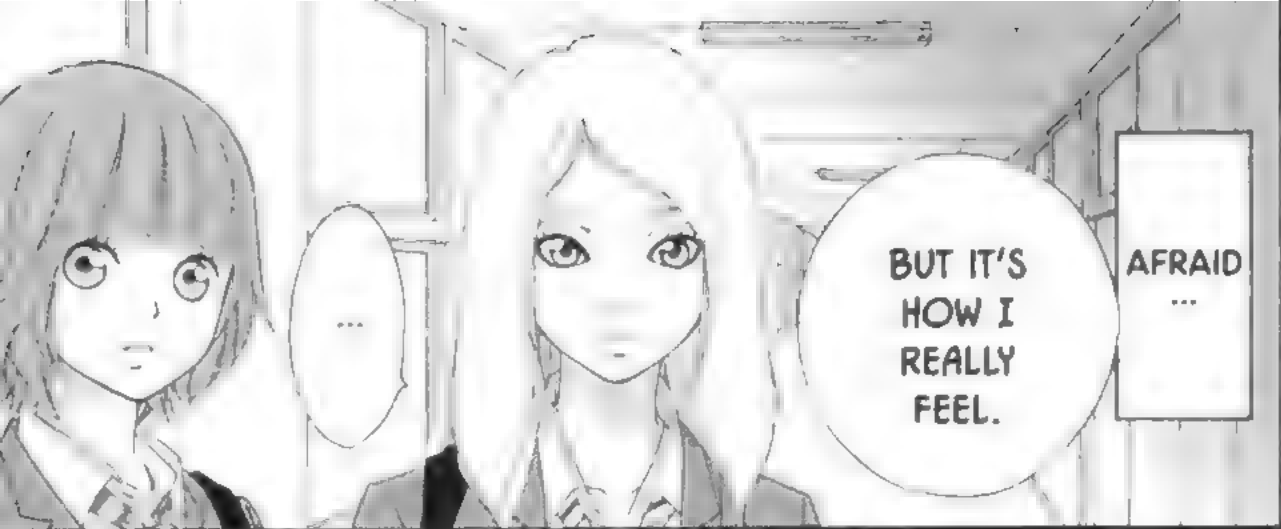


ASUMI!

CHIE!



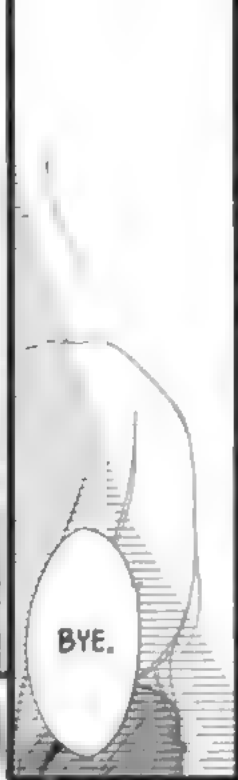






ASUMI...

...WAIT  
UP!



BYE.



WE  
JUST...

...DON'T  
MESH  
WELL.



I GUESS  
YOU  
COULDN'T  
MAKE UP.



...THE  
TEACHERS  
WOULD SAY,  
"LET'S ALL  
BE FRIENDS."

WHEN  
I WAS  
LITTLE...



AND I STILL  
DO FOR THE  
MOST PART,  
BUT...

BACK THEN,  
I BELIEVED  
THAT.



YOSHI-  
OKA...

...AND  
IT STILL  
DOESN'T  
WORK  
OUT.

THEY  
NEVER  
TAUGHT  
US...

...WHAT TO  
DO AFTER  
YOU'VE  
TRIED...



...SOMETIMES  
THINGS DON'T  
WORK OUT.

YOU  
LEARN  
WHAT  
YOU  
DIDN'T  
KNOW.

I  
LEARNED...

...THAT  
LETTING  
GO IS A  
STRENGTH  
IN ITSELF.

SOMETIMES  
THERE'S SIMPLY  
NOTHING TO  
BE DONE!

Yeah!

I WAS  
HOPING WE  
COULD TALK  
MORE.

I'M  
STRONGER...

...THAN  
I WAS  
BEFORE.

ME  
TOO!

I...

I solicited requests from the readers for these sidebars in *Ao Haru Ride*! It's my hope that I can make these fun for you.

I also wanted to mention something. In the magazine we often give gifts or prizes to readers. If you don't get selected for a prize—or if you didn't enter before the deadline—please understand that even if you ask our editorial department, they can't give the goods to you. ♪ But it would make me happy if you picked up the magazine from time to time to increase your chances of getting the gifts!!





I WANT  
TO  
TALK  
TO HIM.

...TO SEE  
KOU  
RIGHT  
NOW.

I  
REALLY  
WANT...

IN THAT  
MOMENT,  
I FELT LIKE  
WE SHARED  
SOMETHING.

I WANT TO  
FEEL THAT  
AGAIN.





KOU!

I WAS  
LOOKING  
FOR YOU!  
I WANTED  
TO TELL YOU  
SOMETHING.



WHAT?

DID YOU  
MAKE UP  
WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS?



I THINK THIS  
IS WHERE  
THE HONORS  
CLASS  
STORES THEIR  
SHOES...

WHO  
ARE YOU  
LOOKING  
FOR?

I  
WONDER IF  
HE'S LEFT  
ALREADY.



...NOT  
EVERYTHING  
GOES THE  
WAY YOU  
WANT IT  
TO.

AND I'M  
FINE WITH  
THAT!

I'M GOING  
TO START  
OVER!



OH...

NO, IT  
DIDN'T  
WORK  
OUT!

BUT YOU  
KNOW...



KOU!



I'M  
GLAD.



...



H  
HELLO.

YOU'RE  
THE GIRL  
FROM THE  
OTHER  
DAY.



WE  
FINISHED  
TALKING.

Enough  
already

NO, NOT  
ABOUT  
THAT.



I WAS  
STILL  
TALKING  
TO YOU.

OH.





I THOUGHT  
THEY  
LOOKED  
ALIKE...

...BECAUSE  
I KEPT  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
TANAKA.



HA  
HA.

...SO NOT  
EVERYBODY  
KNOWS.

IT'S  
NOT A  
SECRET...

...BUT WE  
DON'T  
REALLY BRING  
IT UP...



ARE YOU  
TWO  
DATING?

THEY'RE  
BROTHERS!

OF  
COURSE  
THEY  
ARE.

SILENT - DROPPED  
WITH SELF



**MRRRR**



HUH?

YOU  
CAN'T BE  
SERIOUS!

HAH? YOU  
THINK I'D  
DATE SOME-  
ONE WHO  
EATS MORE  
THAN I DO?



ARE YOU  
CONFUSING  
ME WITH HOW  
YOU FELT?



YOU LIKED  
ME BACK  
IN JUNIOR  
HIGH!



OH...  
THAT?  
I LIED.

I JUST  
WENT WITH  
THE FLOW.

YOU TOLD  
ME THAT  
YOU LIKED  
ME TOO!



LOITER  
"LOITER"

That was  
only because  
you kept  
staring at  
me

What?!

But you were  
staring me  
straight in the  
eyes when you  
said that



ANYWAY,  
THAT HAS  
NOTHING TO  
DO WITH US  
NOW.

YOU'RE  
JUST  
AFRAID  
TO OWN  
UP!



THIS IS A  
STUPID  
CONVER-  
SATION.



AH,  
THAT'S  
A NICE  
NAME.

FUTABA.

FUTABA...



Ha  
ha  
ha.

I CAN TELL  
YOU TWO  
GET ALONG.

UM...

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
NAME?



FUTABA  
YOSHIOKA.



AHA!  
FUTABA!

?



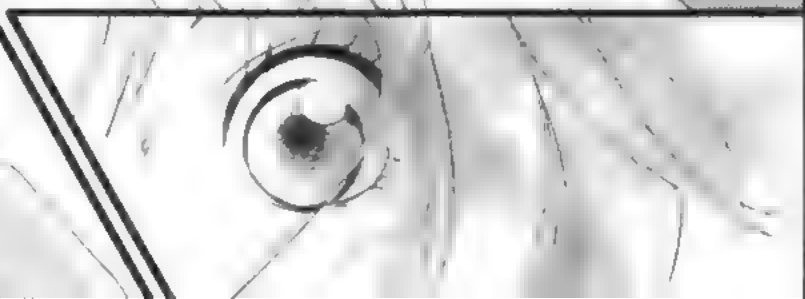
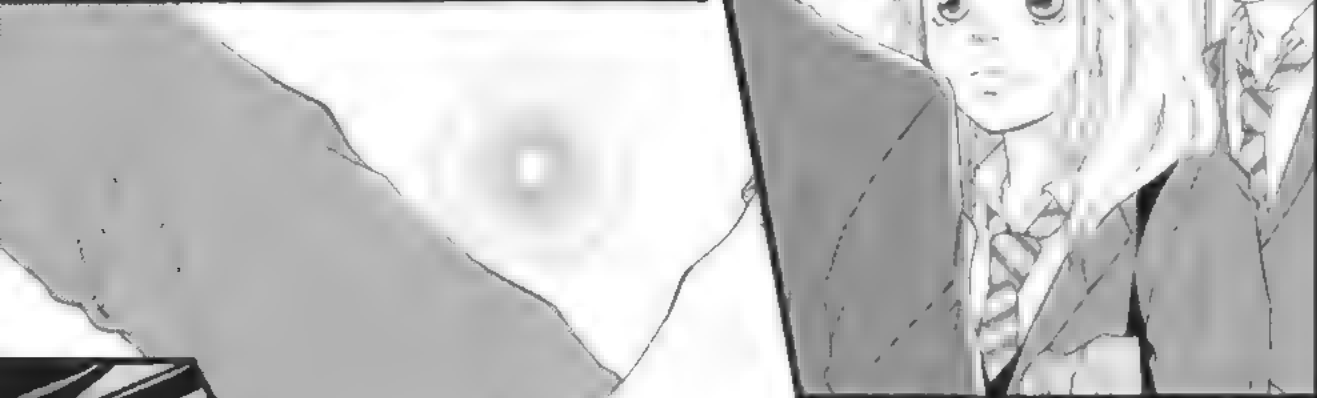
OH



Huh?  
No, no  
It's not  
true



**THIS TEACHER  
IS HITTING ON  
A STUDENT!**







MURAO.



That  
kid



THIS IS OUR  
LAST DAY  
TOGETHER AS  
A CLASS.

AT LEAST  
COME TO  
THIS ONE.

YOU'RE NOT  
COMING TO  
TODAY'S  
GATHERING?

NO.



BYE,  
KOMINATO.



...



I DON'T HAVE  
A PERSONAL  
CONNECTION  
TO ANYONE IN  
OUR CLASS.



SO YOU  
GOT A  
PLACE ON  
YOUR OWN,  
KOU?

NO, HE  
MOVED  
OUT.

BECAUSE I'M  
A STUDENT AT  
THE SCHOOL  
WHERE HE  
TEACHES.

SO  
MR. TANAKA  
DOESN'T LIVE  
WITH YOU?

Why?



JUST  
ME...

WITH  
YOUR  
MOM?

YOU MOVED  
BACK TO  
YOUR OLD  
HOUSE?

YEAH...



WHY  
DON'T YOU  
CHANGE  
YOUR NAME  
BACK—

IT HAS  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH YOU.

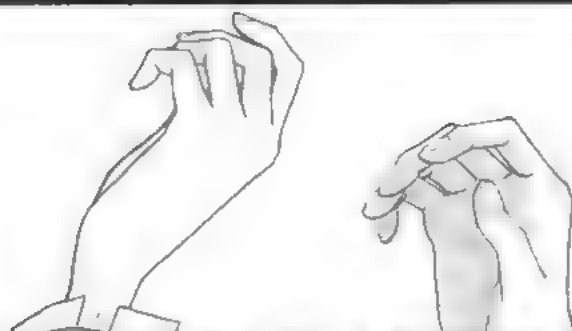
ENOUGH  
ALREADY.



YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO'S  
DRAGGING  
ME INTO IT!

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?!

WH...



THERE.  
I'VE LET  
YOU GO.



KOU...



...DOES  
IT FEEL  
LIKE HE'S  
LOOKING  
AT  
NOTHING...



WHY...



...WHEN  
WE'RE  
STARING  
AT EACH  
OTHER?



...YOUR  
HEART  
RIGHT  
NOW?



YOU  
DISAPPEAR  
SUDDENLY,  
AND THEN  
COME BACK...


I CAN'T HELP  
IT IF I HAVE  
A LOT OF  
QUESTIONS!



I THOUGHT  
YOU WANTED  
ME TO LET  
GO?

NOW LET  
GO OF  
ME.

KOU,  
WHERE  
IS...



MY BRAIN IS  
STILL TRYING  
TO MAKE SENSE  
OF THINGS!

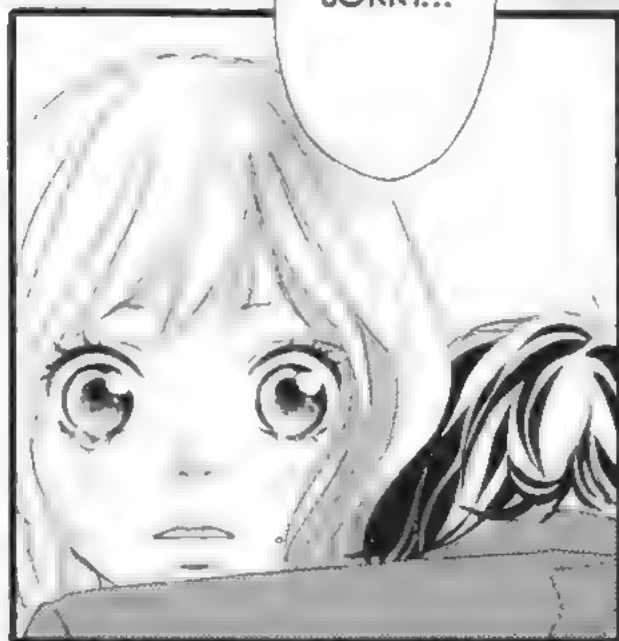
DIDN'T I  
TELL YOU  
TO STOP  
CRYING?

IT'S  
ANNOYING...





SORRY...



THE  
FESTI-  
VAL...



KOU?



WERE  
YOU AT  
SANKAKU  
PARK...

...WAITING  
FOR ME  
THAT DAY?



WHAT?



YES, I WAS  
WAITING.

...HAD  
PLANNED TO  
MEET YOU AT  
SANKAKU PARK.

I...

...YOU  
HATED  
BOYS.

I  
THOUGHT  
...

I WAITED  
AND  
WAITED.

MM.  
I'M  
SORRY.

I WAS  
DEALING  
WITH A  
LOT.

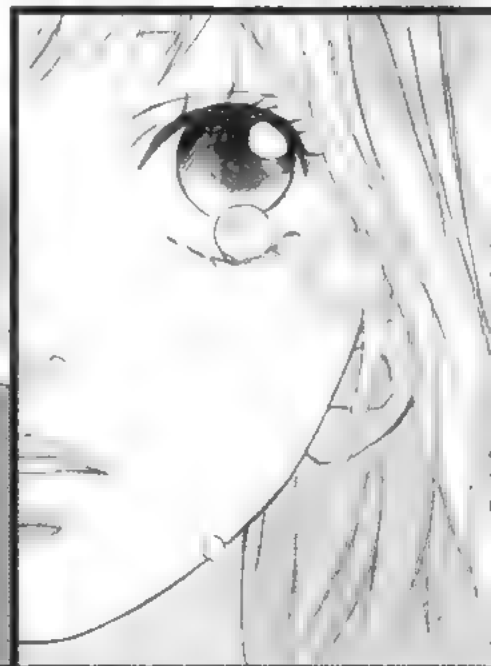
...THINGS  
GOT CRAZY  
AT HOME.

BUT  
RIGHT WHEN  
SUMMER  
BREAK  
STARTED...

I'M SORRY  
I COULDN'T  
GO THAT DAY.



KOU...



SORRY.  
I WAS BEING  
INCONSIDERATE  
BY ASKING  
TOO MANY  
QUESTIONS.



IT'S  
OKAY.



OF  
COURSE.

...A LOT  
MORE  
THAN I  
WAS.

KOU WAS  
DEALING  
WITH...

AND  
HERE I  
AM...



LET'S  
WALK  
HOME.



YEAH



ENJOY  
YOUR  
DINNER  
TONIGHT.

HUH?



I'M THIS  
WAY.  
SEE YOU  
LATER.

OKAY.



HA  
HA.



OH...  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.



MY  
BROTHER  
IS  
COMING  
OVER.



DON'T YOU  
REMEMBER?



ISN'T  
MR. TANAKA  
MAKING  
DINNER FOR  
YOU?





HE'S STILL  
SCARY  
SOME-  
TIMES...

...BUT HE  
OPENED  
UP TO ME  
TODAY.



IT MADE  
ME  
HAPPY.







THAT  
KID...

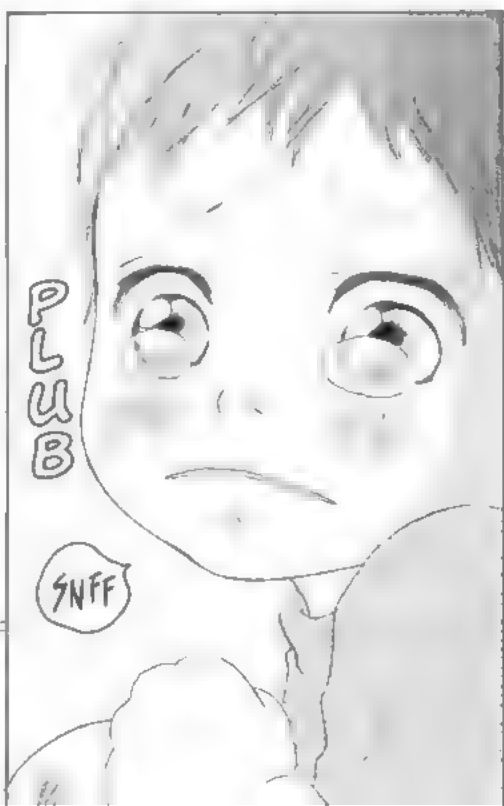


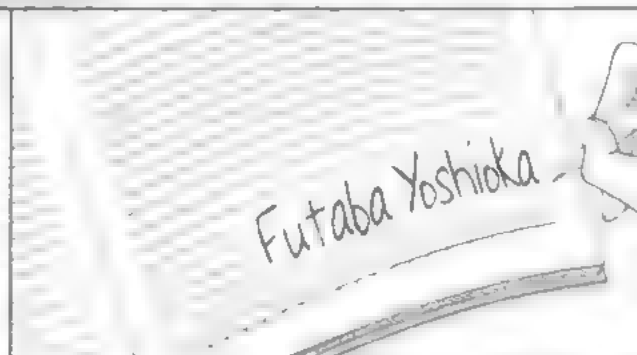
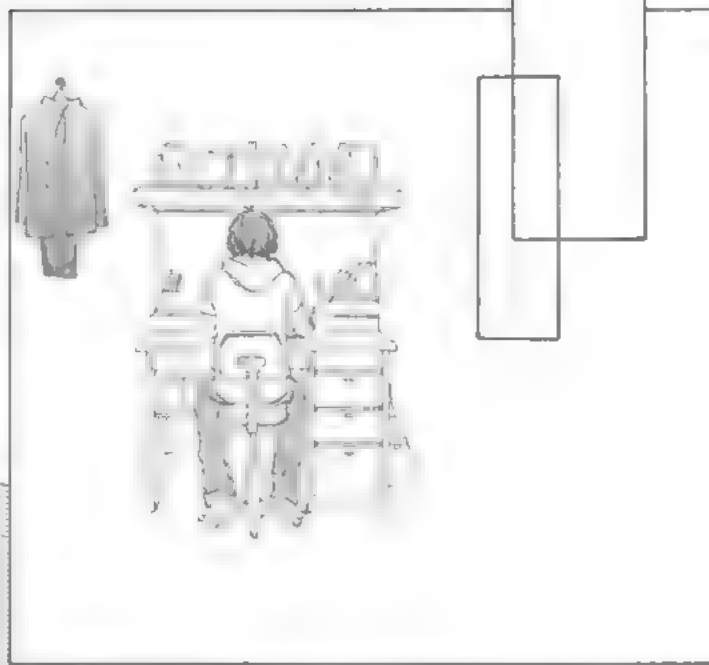
YOUR BIG  
BROTHER  
IS WAITING  
FOR YOU.

K  
R  
K



WHERE  
IS HE?







YOU LIKE  
A GIRL!

SHUT UP!  
GO AWAY.  
I CAN'T  
STUDY.



HEY,  
DON'T  
LOOK!



CUT IT  
OUT!

Your shirt is  
on backwards!

WHAT'S THIS  
FUTABA  
YOSHIOKA  
LIKE?

I  
WAS!

YOU  
WEREN'T  
STUDYING.



HEH  
HEH

SO THAT'S  
FUTABA  
YOSHIOKA.



YOUR BIG  
BROTHER  
IS WAITING  
FOR YOU...



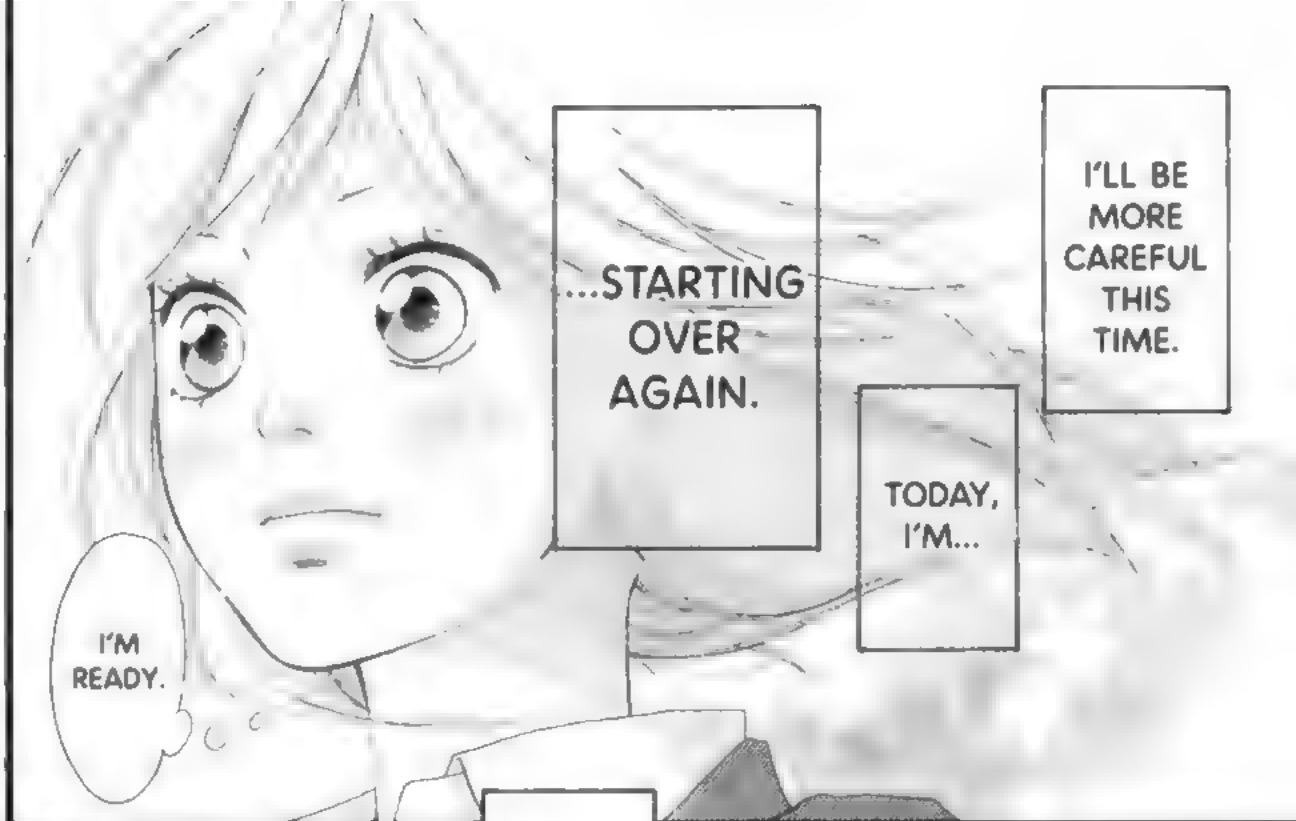
...STILL...



WHAT  
YOU  
LOSE...

...YOU  
CAN...

...HAVE  
AGAIN.



I'M  
READY.

...STARTING  
OVER  
AGAIN.

I'LL BE  
MORE  
CAREFUL  
THIS  
TIME.

TODAY,  
I'M...



IT  
BEGINS.

2-3

2-4



Yoshioka, Futaba

THERE!  
CLASS 2.

YOSHI-  
OKA...

OH.

YOSHI-  
OKA...



...EXCITED...

Fukuyama  
Makita, Yuri  
Muraoka  
Yoshida, Futaba

I'M WITH  
MAKITA.

...THAT  
MAKITA  
IS IN MY  
CLASS.

I'M...

...

IT  
BEGINS.

2-2

...

B-BM7



THERE'S  
MURAO.

I WONDER  
IF SHE'LL  
BE SITTING  
IN FRONT  
OF ME.



PHOD

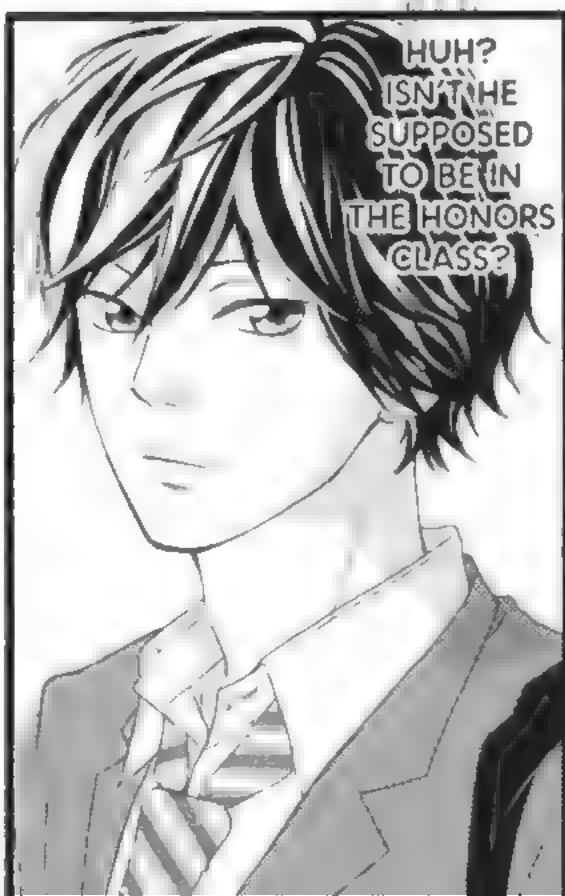
AH.  
THERE'S  
MAKITA.



**YES!**

JOLT







To Be Continued...



# Ao Haru Ride

VOLUME 1  
SHOJO BEAT EDITION

STORY AND ART BY **IO SAKISAKA**

TRANSLATION **Emi Louie-Nishikawa**

TOUCH-UP ART + LETTERING **Inori Fukuda Trant**

DESIGN **Shawn Carrico**

EDITOR **Nancy Thistlethwaite**

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**PARENTAL ADVISORY**

AO HARU RIDE is rated T for Teen and  
is recommended for ages 13 and up.  
This volume contains the awkwardness of youth.

**VIZ MEDIA**  
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**Shojo Beat**  
shojobeat.com





I love the springtime, and it makes me happy that volume 1 is coming out in the spring in Japan. I feel excited whenever I start something new, no matter what it is. All aboard! The *Ao Haru Ride* Express is leaving the station! Hurry—don't miss this ride through youth!

## IO SAKISAKA

Born on June 8, Io Sakisaka made her debut as a manga creator with *Sakura, Chiru*. Her works include *Call My Name*, *Gate of Planet and Blue*. *Strobe Edge*, her previous work, is also published by VIZ Media's Shojo Beat imprint. *Ao Haru Ride* was adapted into an anime series in 2014. In her spare time, Sakisaka likes to paint things and sleep.



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Futaba Yoshioka thought all boys were loud and obnoxious until she met Kou Tanaka in junior high. But as soon as she realized she really liked him, he had already moved away because of family issues. Now, in high school, Kou has reappeared, but is he still the same boy she fell in love with?

